



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
MEETINGS OF THE CHAMBER OF  
PRINCES (NARENDRA MANDAL)

*Held at New Delhi on the 14th and 15th October 1943.*

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## Order-Paper

### CHAMBER OF PRINCES (NARENDRA MANDAL).

Thursday, the 14th October 1943.

1. His Excellency the Crown Representative will on arrival greet the Members and Representative Members who will be presented individually by His Highness the Chancellor.

2. His Excellency the Crown Representative will take his seat in the Chamber.

3. His Highness the Chancellor will invite His Excellency the Crown Representative to unveil the bust of His late Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

4. His Excellency will reply and then unveil the bust by pressing a button which will be accessible without leaving his seat.

5. His Excellency the Crown Representative will deliver an address.

#### *List of Business.*

1. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, its deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement.”

*Seconder*—His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur.

2. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow and deep sense of loss sustained by the entire Order of Princes at the sad demise of His late Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, one of the founders and the first Chancellor of this Chamber, who held the exalted office of Chancellor for five consecutive years and was General Secretary to the Conference of Princes for five years preceding the inauguration of the Chamber and Pro-Chancellor at the time of his demise, and offers its sincerest condolences to the bereaved family.”

*Seconders*—His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal.

His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur.

*Supporters*—His Highness the Maharaja of Panna.

His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur.

His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

The Raja of Khairagarh.

3. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow at the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar, the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Raja of Jhabua and of the late Rajas of Khilchipur and Kurundwad (Junior) together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families.”

*Seconder*—His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

4. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Maharaja of Bikaner, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Raja of Jhabua, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar and to the Raja of Khilchipur, on their accession to the *Gaddi*, and to Their Highnesses the Rana of Barwani, the Maharaja of Chhatarpur and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra and to the Thakor Saheb of Wadhwan on their investiture with ruling powers and wishes them a long and prosperous life.”

*Seconder*—His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

Brief reply by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

Friday, the 15th October 1943.

1. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

"The Chamber of Princes extends a cordial welcome to the Rulers recently admitted as Members of the Chamber in their own right and confidently hopes that by continuing to take an active interest in the affairs of this Chamber and the ordered progress of their respective States, these members will prove a source of added strength to the Chamber of Princes."

*Seconder.*—The Raja of Bhor.

*Supporter.*—The Maharaja of Patna.

(Reply on behalf of the new Members by the Nawab of Kurwai.)

2. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

"The Chamber of Princes records its expression of heartiest gratification at the recent important victories of the Imperial and Allied Forces in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Russia and other theatres of war and is proud to learn that the Indian troops have played a magnificent part in these achievements. The Chamber requests His Excellency the Crown Representative to convey to His Imperial Majesty and his Government, including in particular the courageous and inspiring Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the sincerest congratulations of the Princes of India on these glorious victories, and reiterates the firm determination of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India to continue to render every possible assistance towards the achievement of final victory and for the defence of their Motherland and the vindication of high principles of justice and sanctity of treaties."

*Seconder.*—His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal.

*Supporters.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior Branch).

His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur.

3. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:—

"The Chamber of Princes records a hearty vote of thanks and tenders warm congratulations to His Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar on the valuable services rendered by him as representative of the States on the Imperial War Cabinet."

*Seconder.*—His Highness the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior.

4. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

"The Chamber of Princes recommends that in the event of its Session not being held in March, 1944, the voting papers for the next elections of the Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor be opened and the results of the elections declared for formal ratification at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Princes instead of at the Chamber Session as prescribed in Appendix A, to the First Regulations of the Constitution of the Chamber."

*Seconder.*—His Highness the Maharaja of Panna.

5. To receive a statement from His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar reviewing the work performed by the Chamber of Princes during the last year.

6. Vote of thanks to His Highness the Chancellor.

*Mover.*—His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur.

*Seconder.*—His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur.

*Supporters.*—His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

The Raja of Khairagarh.

7. Reply of the Members and Representative Members to His Excellency the Crown Representative's address.

8. His Excellency the Crown Representative will conclude the proceedings.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST DAY

14th October, 1943.

The Chamber assembled at the Princes' Chamber, Council House at 10-30 A.M., on Thursday, the 14th October 1943. His Excellency the Crown Representative presided.

The following Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present:—

### Assam.

His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur.

### Central India States.

His Highness the Nawab of Baoni.  
His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Datia.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas  
(Senior Br.).  
His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas  
(Junior Br.).  
His Highness the Nawab of Jaora.

His Highness the Raja of Jhabua.  
The Rao of Jigni.  
The Nawab of Kurwai.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Panna.  
His Highness the Raja of Sailana.  
His Highness the Raja of Samthar.

### Deccan States.

The Raja of Bhor.  
The Raja of Jamkhandi.  
His Highness the Nawab of Janjira.

The Raja of Jath.  
The Raja of Kurundwad (Senior).  
The Raja of Miraj (Senior).  
His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

### Eastern States.

The Raja of Bamra.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.  
The Maharaja of Kalahandi.  
The Chief of Kawardha.  
The Raja of Keonjhar.

The Raja of Khairagarh.  
The Maharaja of Patna.  
The Raja of Seraikela.  
The Maharaja of Sonepur.  
The Raja of Talchar.

### Gujarat States.

His Highness the Nawab of Cambay.  
The Raja of Chhotoda-Udepur.

The Raja of Jawhar.

### Gwalior Agency.

His Highness the Maharaja (Scindia) of Gwalior.

### Mysore Residency.

The Raja of Sandur.

### Punjab States.

The Raja of Baghat.  
His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur.  
His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur.  
His Highness the Raja of Faridkot.  
The Raja of Kalsia.  
The Nawab of Loharu.  
His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Sirmur.  
His Highness the Raja of Suket.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Tehri-Garhwal.

### Rajputana States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.  
His Highness the Maharao Raja of Bundi.

His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur.  
His Highness the Maharao of Kotah.  
The Raja of Shahpura.

### Western India States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Bhavnagar.  
His Highness the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra.  
The Chief of Muli.  
His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.

The Chief of Wadia.  
His Highness the Maharana Raj Saheb of Wankaner.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I rise to request Your Excellency, on behalf of the Members and Representative Members of this Chamber, to unveil the Marble Bust of our revered and departed leader, His late Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

2. At our meeting here last year, His late Highness sat by me, a towering personality, a treasure of wisdom, a pillar of strength with his characteristic dignity; and the eyes of every one in the Chamber fell irresistably on that stalwart leader who typified in his person the highest traditions of Indian Kingship. Little did we know then that this Chamber was having for the last time the benefit of his mature judgment, indomitable courage and farsighted statesmanship.

3. Your Excellency, it has been truly said that great men of genius come once in a generation. Such a genius indeed was His late Highness of Bikaner. His tragic demise creates an irreparable void, which has been mourned in India, in the Commonwealth and even beyond. His remarkable talents, unceasing and varied activity, and mastery of details earned him an outstanding and international position of eminence and renown. His heroic achievements in Bikaner, no less than his great contribution to the interstatal Indian, Imperial, and International affairs, have helped to enhance the prestige of the Indian Princes as also of the Motherland. These achievements shall endure, and they have won him a place of singular honour and reverence in the annals of Indian History.

4. The Chamber of Princes in particular owes His late Highness a debt of endless gratitude. It was in 1916, that an *ad hoc* Conference of Princes was convened for the first time in Delhi. His late Highness of Bikaner was unanimously elected its first General Secretary. Soon thereafter, an informal meeting of a few leading Princes and Ministers was convened at Bikaner to consider the proposal of setting up a Chamber of Princes. It was a novel experiment fraught with suspicions and misgivings, but the farsight of His late Highness of Bikaner and other leading Princes won the day. And within a few months, at the Conference of Princes held in 1917 it was the privilege of His late Highness of Bikaner to declare formally on behalf of the Princes of India that they were anxious to see the early establishment of a formal Chamber of Princes. From that day, His late Highness of Bikaner worked ceaselessly for that objective along with his three distinguished colleagues whose Busts are installed in this Chamber. In 1921, the Chamber of Princes was inaugurated with an inspiring Proclamation from His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor.

5. His late Highness of Bikaner was unanimously elected the first Chancellor of the Chamber, and for five consecutive terms he was re-elected. During the tenure of his office he literally laid the basis and the foundations of work which we have tried to continue under the auspices of the Chamber. Ever since its inception, there has been no important discussion to which His late Highness of Bikaner did not make the most valuable contribution. On every important Committee he was the guiding spirit. Every important policy was shaped by him. In fact, the record of the activities in this Chamber of His late Highness of Bikaner would literally make the history of the best that is in this Chamber and the best that it has been able to achieve.

6. Your Excellency, the outstanding achievements of His late Highness in and outside his State constitute an enviable and inspiring epic to which I shall refer briefly in my speech today on the resolution of condolence. His place in the politics of the Indian States and of this Chamber will be impossible to fill. For over 30 years he was the first spokesman and the most ardent champion of the Indian Princes. He had a living faith in the contribution which the Indian Princes and the States have to make in the future India as repositories of the indigenous culture and tradition. His concept of the future of India and the States was progressive and he always pleaded that the policy

of the States should respond to the changing needs and environments. He was a unique link between the message of the past and the promise of the future. A King amongst Princes, he strove throughout his life to justify Indian India to the rest of India and a United India to the rest of the world. He was the first Prince to represent India at the Imperial War Cabinet and at the Peace Conference. He represented us at the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1924 and was the Leader of the Indian Delegation to the Assembly of the League in 1930. He was also a delegate to the Imperial Conference. He was an outstanding Member of the Indian States Delegation at the Round Table Conference, where his contribution, was that of a genuine patriot.

7. Your Excellency, when the history of inner circle of Makers of History comes to be written, it will be appreciated what a solid contribution was made by His late Highness of Bikaner, as the accredited representative of Indian Princes, in securing the famous 1917 Declaration of India's Political advancement, in getting India recognised as an original member of the League of Nations, and in ensuring recognition of India's status as a free, equal and honoured partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

8. The achievements of His late Highness of Bikaner were not confined to politics and administration alone. He was a staunch friend and a charming host. To any Prince in doubt or difficulty the doors of Bikaner were always open. The sagacious advice and assistance of the late Bikaner Maharaj was ungrudgingly given. He was a great patron of Art and a living example of the high martial traditions of Rajputs. It was his proud boast that he had fought for his King and Country on 3 continents. Your Excellency witnessed how anxious he was to render active service in the present war and how happy he felt when he was given an opportunity to visit the African battle fields. Alas, that he is not with us today to rejoice in his characteristic style over the recent grand victories as an augury of the rout of the Axis Powers.

9. Your Excellency, I cannot adequately express my personal gratitude to His late Highness of Bikaner for the kindness and guidance and support which he invariably gave me in such generous measure. He did me honour and set a fine example by offering himself for the Pro-Chancellorship. During my absence in England, he discharged the duties of the Chancellor in a manner which entitle him to the gratitude of the Princely Order and of this Chamber. In spite of failing health, he gave of his best to the work of the Chamber, and even within a few days of his demise, notwithstanding the warnings of the doctors, he disposed of some important papers with his usual thoroughness.

10. It is almost pathetic to feel that no more shall we see in our midst in this Chamber the towering and heroic personality of His late Highness of Bikaner. His work, however, shall endure, and his Marble Bust, as a small token of our gratitude, over looking the scene of his past activities, would inspire the coming generations of Princes with the memories of his great achievements and the message of his distinguished career.

11. Before I conclude I wish to express my genuine appreciation of the work of Messrs. Mhatre Sculptures of Bombay, who have constructed this Marble Bust so well almost within a month and a half. Our obligations are also due to the architect of the Government of India who designed the pedestals on which the Bust stands.

12. Your Excellency, I have now to request you to be pleased to unveil the Marble Bust of our revered leader His late Highness the Maharaja Shree Ganga Singhji of Bikaner, one of the founders of the Chamber of Princes, its first Chancellor and also its Pro-Chancellor at the time of his tragic demise.

**His Excellency the Viceroy's Speech at the Unveiling Ceremony of the Bust  
of His Late Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in the Chamber of  
Princes Hall on Thursday, 14th October 1943.**

YOUR HIGHNESSES,

In spite of the profound feelings of loss and regret which must inevitably pervade this sad prelude to our session I count myself fortunate to be afforded, in response to the kind invitation voiced on Your Highnesses' behalf by your Chancellor, this opportunity to pay, in this Chamber which he loved so well and which has no often resounder to his eloquence, one more tribute to the great personality of Maharaja Sir Ganga Singhji of Bikaner and his outstanding services to the Princely Order.

The occasion when, in March 1941, I had the honour to unveil the effigies of three other distinguished Princes, all of whom, as I then remarked, had just claims to be described as fathers of this Chamber, is still fresh in my memory. To many who were present on that occasion the thought must have occurred, as it certainly did to me, that the last of the four niches in the wall before me was inevitably reserved for the Maharaja of Bikaner, whose services to this Chamber, which His Highness the Chancellor has just recounted, were—and are perhaps likely to remain—unique and unparalleled. And in all our minds that thought must have been accompanied by the hope that His Highness might yet be spared for many years and that India and the King-Emperor might count upon him at least until the war had been won. But that hope was not to be fulfilled and the fourth niche is no longer empty.

The services and achievements which we are commemorating today have been so fully and feelingly reviewed by your Chancellor that it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate them. I would only associate myself with all that he has said and again express my gratitude for the opportunity to salute the memory of His late Highness not only as a great and inspiring leader but as one whose personal friendship I am proud to have enjoyed through so many years. The inspiration of a great poet enables him sometimes to say in a few pregnant words something that an ordinary mortal could not achieve even in pages of laboured prose. And no one, I think, would grudge to the late Maharaja of Bikaner the application of familiar lines which, though written centuries ago, seem to me incomparably appropriate on this sad occasion:—

“He was a man. Take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again.”

**His Excellency the Viceroy's Farewell Address to the Chamber of Princes  
on Thursday, the 14th October 1943.**

YOUR HIGHNESSES,

I am very glad to meet Your Highnesses again, and to have this opportunity before I lay down my present office of saying these words of farewell to you. I realise only too well how great the inconvenience is which many of Your Highnesses have suffered in visiting Delhi in present difficulties of accommodation and transport, and I am the more grateful to you all for your presence, in numbers unprecedented since the inauguration of the Chamber, here today.

This, the 19th meeting of the Chamber of Princes, since its inauguration in 1921, is the last of six such meetings over which I have had the honour of presiding and, owing to various difficulties which prevented our assembling as usual in March, has had to be postponed up to the very verge of my departure from India. But I am glad to think that since we last met the face of the war has changed in a manner that even the most optimistic of us could hardly have hoped for. Today we can look back on the great and splendid achievements of the fighting forces in every theatre of war through the months that have passed since we last came together. The great changes that have taken place, the outstanding victories of the Allied arms, have brought us very perceptibly nearer

to the goal we are all so anxious to reach. And they have brought us perceptibly nearer, too, to the point at which the investigation and the solution of post-war problems is a matter of immediate and imperative necessity.

Let me first pay tribute to the memory of those who are no longer with us. Since our last meeting, six members of the Chamber have passed away—Their Highnesses of Bikaner, Jhalawar, Ajaigarh and Jhabua, the Raja of Khilchipur and the Raja of Kurundwad (Junior) who was a Representative Member. And I have just heard with very great regret of the death of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin whose State I had the pleasure of visiting less than two months ago and who had done so much in the short period of his rule for the good of his people.

His Highness the Chancellor will be voicing our tribute to these departed Princes. I will only add to what I have already said this morning about His Highness of Bikaner, a special word of deep regret at the untimely demise of His Highness of Jhalawar, a prince of exceptional promise, selflessly devoted to the discharge of his high responsibilities. Rarely, if ever, did he fail to attend the meetings of this Chamber and his absence today leaves a gap which we all deplore.

To those who have succeeded to Rulership and membership of this Chamber I offer a most cordial welcome. To His Highness of Bikaner we confidently look to carry on the great services rendered to the Order of Princes by his illustrious father. It is a pleasure, too, to see here today for the first time the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and Their Highnesses of Dhrangadhra, Manipur and Jhabua, and also the Rajas of Baghat and Kurundwad (Senior) and the Rao of Jigni who have been elected as Representative Members since our last meeting. Nor must I omit to mention the recent admission to membership of the Raja of Shahpura, the Nawab of Kurwai and the Rajas of Talcher, Kalsia and Phaltan, four of whom we are glad to welcome in person today.

I have spoken already of the magnificent progress that has been made in every theatre of the war by the Allied arms, progress so profoundly encouraging to all of us who have been through the dark days through which we have lived since the beginning of the war. Much still lies before us. It will be a mistake to underestimate the strength and the determination of the forces that are opposed to us. We may yet have many anxious months before victory is achieved. But it is a happiness to me before I leave India to be able to feel that circumstances have so amply justified the guarded optimism which I permitted myself in previous addresses to this Chamber. And it is a happiness to me, too, to be able with pride and gratitude for the last time to review the services which have been rendered by the Princes of India in this titanic struggle.

Naturally, my thoughts turn first to the sphere of active operations and I would at the outset warmly thank and congratulate those of Your Highnesses who have been able to hearten and encourage the troops by personal visits to the various Fronts.

I would wish, too, to pay a special tribute to the invaluable assistance in the war effort that has been given by His Highness the Chancellor. Not only has His Highness rendered service of great value as one of the Representatives of India at the War Cabinet. He has taken advantage of his absence from India to perform sterling service as one of the spokesmen of this great country overseas. And he has spared no pains to acquaint himself in the fullest detail with the organisation of war effort in the United Kingdom. I hope that in the course of this session we shall hear from His Highness himself some account of his experiences. But for myself, I would like to add my testimony to the value of his contribution, the importance of the contacts he has made, the encouragement that his visit has given to the troops and to the munition workers that he has visited.

The Indian States Forces have taken full advantage of the opportunities that have come to them to win fresh distinction on the battlefield. Comparisons are rash. And such distinction is of course largely dependant upon opportunity. But I would mention the gallant record of the Kashmir Mountain Battery, the

1st Patiala Infantry, the Jind Infantry, the Jodhpur Sardar Infantry, two Jaipur Battalions, the Tripura Rifles and the Tehri-Garhwal and Malerkotla Sappers and Miners. Nor should I fail to record my gratitude for the manner in which the States as a whole have adopted the scheme devised to raise the standard of efficiency among the higher ranks of their Forces. I realise and appreciate the difficulties that may on occasion confront Your Highnesses in these and other connected matters. But I know too that you on your part will recognise that the first duty of the Military Adviser-in-Chief is to devise schemes to rectify such deficiencies as come to notice under the stress and strain of war. A new scheme for the exchange of officers, and another for providing advanced training for State units will I understand shortly be put forward. I am convinced that Your Highnesses will continue to view such proposals with sympathy and realism, and that I and my successor can look for your full co-operation over them.

Nor has the active aid of the States in the actual war zones been confined to combatant units. Invaluable assistance, at a time of very real and pressing need, has been lent by the Indian States in providing labour units for the construction of roads and aerodromes. Our gratitude is due in very special measure to the great States of the South, whose contributions in this sphere have been, and continue to be, outstanding. From Travancore and Cochin over 70,000 men have travelled north to carve out roads to be traversed by the fighting soldiers, and in doing so to face the perils of disease. Those who have laid down their lives side by side with the fighting man in the fever infested belts in which so much has had to be done, have sacrificed themselves as truly as any fighting soldier for their motherland, and we salute their memory today.

But it is not only to humble homes that the war has brought sad and untimely bereavements, I spoke last year of an Heir-Apparent who had met his death in the course of his duties as an officer of the Indian Air Force. Since then a similar blow has fallen upon two other members of this Chamber and I feel sure that Your Highnesses would wish me to tender deep sympathy and condolences to the Raja of Sangli and the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj.

For the rest, contributions and offers of personal services, aircraft, buildings, labour, watercraft, machinery, training facilities and medical aid, donations and gifts of every sort and description, have continued to pour in from Indian States in an ever widening stream. I cannot speak too highly of the magnificent response consistently made by the Indian States to the urgent needs of this critical time. They have shown unstinted generosity and co-operation: thanks to their help, great aerodromes, strategical projects of every kind, have sprung up in the territory of the Indian States. Facilities of every kind have been most readily granted not only to British and Indian forces, but to the forces of our Allies; and in particular certain States, at the cost of wide stretches of famous forests most carefully guarded in the past, have helped immensely in the training of men in the new science of jungle warfare.

I referred in my last address to the steadily expanding scope of measures to achieve the maximum co-ordination of effort between the States and British India. Instances of such co-operation could be multiplied indefinitely and there is no time to catalogue them today. But I would make mention of one notable incident in which a group of hostile agents were arrested with most commendable promptitude almost immediately after they had landed from an enemy submarine on the shores of an Indian State. Further and most valuable demonstrations of this united front, as between the States and Provinces, are to be found in the more prosaic but not less vital sphere of war time legislation, where States have most willingly and comprehensively applied to their territories the British Indian Ordinances and other arrangements devised to meet the various emergencies which have been constantly arising.

Let me add one further instance in which the States and their subjects are making an important contribution to our resources. The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department was, up to the outbreak of war functioning on commercial lines as a self-supporting organisation making no contribution to the general revenues of British India. Such an arrangement is of course only fair to the

States who by entering, as the vast majority of them have done, into postal unity with British India, undertook no liability to submit to indirect taxation in the form of surcharges on the normal economic rates for the transmission of letters and telegrams. The exigencies of war time finance have however compelled the Government of India, following in this matter the lead of the Government of the United Kingdom, to raise the postal and telegraphic rates for the express purpose of making a substantial surplus available as a contribution towards war expenditure. It was of course impracticable to confine this process to British India, and it is with deep appreciation that I learn that the States are pressing no objection to the additional financial burden which it places on themselves and on their subjects. The financial value of that burden cannot immediately be precisely computed. But given the areas and the populations affected, it cannot but be substantial. And its acceptance is yet another and a most valuable voluntary contribution by the Indian States towards the prosecution of the war.

The same uniform and wholehearted co-operation has been shown in regard to those grim problems of the war which have been so distressingly prominent during the current year—food, cloth, inflation. In our efforts to combat the food crisis we have had the benefit of full association at every stage with accredited representatives of the States. Those who have a surplus have freely placed it at our disposal. Those in deficiency have of course participated in the common resources. I could but wish that those resources had proved more adequate to their needs. I have particularly in mind the States of Travancore and Cochin which, deprived of their normal supplies of Burma rice, have borne a particularly heavy burden. I would like to pay a tribute both to the efforts made by the States Governments concerned, with which I was able to acquaint myself at first hand during my recent visit to South India, to cope with a situation so distressing, and to the patience and fortitude of the population so sorely tried.

All over India the States have lent full support to the "Grow more food" campaign. I would beg them to continue and if possible to increase that support. The need is great—we must leave nothing undone not merely to banish the threat of famine, but to accumulate those reserves of food that are so important a guarantee for the future.

To those States of Rajputana where sudden floods have recently caused such grave loss of life and property our sympathy and our admiration of the courage and energy with which all concerned have applied themselves to the work of remedy and repairs go out in full measure.

In the steps that have had to be taken to remedy the shortage of cloth there is the same record of friendly helpfulness. Many important centres of the textile industry are situated in Indian States, and I am deeply grateful to the States concerned for the manner in which they have placed the products of their looms at the disposal of the Central Government; often at no small sacrifice to themselves.

Inflation is one of the gravest problems that faces us today. It is a problem in the handling of which the States and British India are equally concerned, and in which they have a common interest. Action to combat inflation is essential, for it is a threat to every one of us, and to India as a whole. I realise that anti-inflationary measures present a complex problem in the case of the States, having regard to the varying conditions of their fiscal arrangements and their relative backwardness in industrial development. But I know that Your Highnesses share my view that the question is one that must be resolutely tackled. And I look for valuable results from the discussions that I myself have had with some of you on this topic, discussions which my Political Adviser is, on my behalf, continuing and developing during this week. I would like to take this opportunity to make it clear beyond any question that such checks and prohibitions as it has been necessary to apply are based solely upon the present overriding need to conserve and regulate the resources of the country as a whole so that the output of essential supplies should not be curtailed or disturbed for the benefit of local or personal

interests. There is not, and there cannot be, any question of their being designed to stifle the birth, or the progress, of industrial development in the Indian States.

Matters such as these, and others too numerous to mention, will of course come under review in connection with post-war development and reconstruction. The plans of the Central Government for dealing with that great problem are already well advanced. I am glad to be able to assure Your Highnesses that they contain full provision for associating your States with its numerous ramifications, and I am glad too to think that many of your ablest Ministers are included in the various Committees that are being set up.

Public opinion must inevitably take the closest interest in these activities of reconstruction. I am the more grateful for the response of so many States to the advice which I offered to you at our last session in regard to the National War Front movement. That movement was established when the war outlook was dark and threatening. As the intervening months have passed, it has developed into a publicity organisation concerned with every aspect of public morale. It is some measure of Your Highness' support of this vital work that in 15 months, 287 States have brought War Front organisations into being. That is a response of which the States have every right to be proud and, as the founder of the Movement, I congratulate Your Highnesses on it. And, though the name of the War Front Movement must ultimately die, the spirit and work behind it should live. For it contains tremendous potentialities for establishing means by which the good in man and in life may be more widely known and the things that are evil challenged and destroyed.

Before I leave the dominating topic of the war I would add a few words of appreciation of the generosity shown by so many of Your Highnesses towards refugees from other countries whose sufferings have been immensely greater than ours. In particular I have in mind your aid towards establishing a temporary refuge in India for a great number of Polish children. Here again I must refer to the outstanding energy and personal interest, and to the most generous personal aid, which has been given by His Highness the Chancellor. What he has done for Polish children will long be remembered, not only by those children to whom his kindness has been so real, but by the great Polish nation. I should mention also the similar settlement in the Kolhapur State where facilities have been most readily and generously provided and where the personal sympathy of Her Highness the Maharani Regent has been of the utmost value.

Time presses and I have much to say on matters of even greater importance, but I could not forgive myself if I failed today to thank Your Highnesses for your lavish support in two matters unconnected with the war but specially near to the hearts of Her Excellency and myself. I refer of course to my wife's Anti-Tuberculosis campaign and to the activities of the All-India Cattle Show Society.

I cannot over-estimate my sense of the importance of the Anti-Tuberculosis campaign. It is I am certain of profound significance to the future of this country. And it is a very real happiness to my wife, who has spared no effort for it during her time here, and to myself, to think that we leave India with the campaign against this scourge so firmly established. The support of the All-India Cattle Show Society by more than 60 States has been continuous and invaluable. I am grateful in particular that it should have been greater even than before in this current year in spite of the other numerous demands on your resources. I feel certain that the work of the Society merits in the fullest degree the friendly co-operation of Your Highnesses, and that it responds to instincts deeply rooted in every great agricultural country. The fight against tuberculosis, the struggle to improve India's cattle and so the condition of the peasant and the countryside, are very close to the hearts of both of us, and my wife and I, I can assure you, will in the days after we have left India, continue to take the liveliest and most vivid interest in both.

I turn now to a different field, and I would ask Your Highnesses to bear with me while I indulge in some reflections on more basic and possibly more controversial matters, reflections prompted by seven and a half years of such intimate association with the intricate and sometimes baffling problems presented by the Indian States and by the real and sincere interest which I have always taken in them and in their welfare. It has been suggested to me more than once that the immense aggregate importance of these States as an element in the Indian continent, and their vital concern in the solution of all Indian problems, have not always been fully appreciated. I cannot believe that that can be the case, or that any well-informed observer can fail to realise the vast area which the Indian States occupy, the size of their population, their great resources, the outstanding place which they hold in the history of India, and the extent to which the future of this great sub-continent must be, and is, of immediate and profound concern to them. But the very size and importance of the Indian States as a whole makes the problems that Your Highnesses, and the Crown Representative of the day, have to face the more significant.

Your Highnesses have often heard me refer both in my previous addresses to this Chamber, and in other places, to my own view of the significance and value of the Federal scheme which was the coping-stone of the Act of 1935. There was no doubt much that could be said in point of detail against that scheme. Equally, as I have said before, much could have been and can be urged against any scheme that can be devised for the constitutional future of India. But just as I have always believed that the Federal scheme was the best answer that could at that time have been devised for the problems of British India, equally it was, and is my sincere belief that such a scheme is the best answer from the point of view of the Indian States, and from the point of view of India as a whole. Events beyond our control have necessitated changes in our plans, and to some extent have altered the circumstances with which we have to deal and in which we have to build. But speaking here to Your Highnesses today for the last time I wish to reaffirm my faith and confidence in the Federal ideal, and in the contribution which the realisation with general support of that ideal, whatever adjustments might prove necessary in regard to particular aspects of it, would make to Indian unity and to the constitutional future of India.

And when I speak of unity I need not emphasise to Your Highnesses the importance of all of us standing together in the conditions of the modern world. It is very difficult for units, however large; whatever their form of Government; whatever their resources, to exist save in relation to, and as part of, a larger whole. The bonds that link units one to another may be light as gossamer. But they exist: they are there: and their strength and their significance cannot be denied. If that is true of a continent as large as Europe, it is true, I am certain, equally of this great sub-continent of India: And inside that sub-continent it holds good equally especially when common interests are so largely involved, of the Indian States. That that unity is wholly consistent with the survival and the orderly development of the Indian States; that the Indian States with their distinguished history; with their special relations with the Crown so fully recognised, based as they are on treaties, sanads, and engagements; with their long tradition, can make a great and useful contribution to India's future I never have doubted, and I do not doubt today. It must be our business to see in what way that contribution can best be made, and what best can be its character.

I spoke just now of survival accompanied by development. The juxtaposition of these two words is of deep and vital significance, as I know that Your Highnesses fully realise. There have been great developments of recent years, profound changes, new forces, new ideas, a new attitude of mind in the international field. All these facts have to be taken into account. And in the face of them you and I, who have to live in the world of today, must think and act realistically. It would be an injustice to Your Highnesses were I to assume that any reasonable man amongst you would deny that

the Crown's obligations to protect carry with them equally binding responsibilities to ensure, if need be, that what is protected continues to be worthy of protection. On the contrary I am glad to think that that most important proposition is widely accepted among you. I can claim during the period of my Viceroyalty to have spared no effort to assist Your Highnesses to give effect to the principles that underlie it. And I should indeed have regarded it not only as a dereliction of my duty but as a grave disservice to the Princely Order had I in the least degree relaxed my efforts to do so.

When I last addressed this Chamber I referred to three particular directions towards which those efforts were, in consultation and co-operation with Your Highnesses, being exerted.

I spoke firstly of the decisive necessity in regard to the smaller States of some form of co-operative measures to secure a standard of administrative efficiency which is beyond their individual resources. That progress has since continued with encouraging results—particularly in Eastern India, from which area I am glad to see so many Rulers present today. I congratulate them on what they have been able to achieve and I look forward with confidence to its consolidation and extension. In other areas too progress has been made and new ideas are afoot. But I have become increasingly conscious of the difficulties which arise, not so much from any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Rulers concerned as from the nature of the foundations on which they have to build. I devoutly wish that these difficulties could before my departure from India have been surmounted by the formulation and application of general principles acceptable to all concerned. But in matters so delicate undue haste might well have defeated the object in view. I have had to content myself therefore with giving instructions that the progress hitherto achieved and the difficulties thereby revealed shall within the next few weeks be systematically reviewed and considered by my advisers, so that thereafter, so soon as can conveniently be arranged, my successor may be able to initiate discussions either with the Standing Committee or with selected representatives of the category of States principally concerned, from which discussions a clear plan of action may emerge. I appeal most earnestly to Your Highnesses to co-operate whole-heartedly in these processes. For I regard them, and I cannot emphasise this too strongly as being literally of vital importance for the vast majority of you.

Your Highnesses will realise that measures such as these to which I now refer, involving as they do a certain measure of sacrifice on the part of those small units to which I have mentioned, do at the same time represent a most valuable contribution to the improvement of administration, and to the removal of criticism, consistently with the survival and development, by means of co-operation among themselves or under the ægis of larger States, of the smaller States affected. The sacrifices involved, as I have observed to Your Highnesses on previous occasions, are an inevitable accompaniment of the co-operative method. But I feel no shadow of doubt that they are justified in terms of the benefits involved, whether we test those benefits by the improvement of the standard of administrative services and amenities or by wider political considerations. A heavy obligation rests upon us all. And that obligation makes it difficult—and I am certain that Your Highnesses agree with me, to view with equanimity conditions in which, owing to the smallness of the area, or of the resources, of individual States, it may be impossible to secure the application of modern standards of justice, or of administration, to the inhabitants of the area concerned.

I would add that the line of argument which I have been following in regard to small States is no less applicable to the Jagirs and Thikanas which, though forming an integral part of certain States, still maintain some semblance of jurisdictional and administrative machinery. Let me make it clear beyond any question that the times are no longer propitious for Jagirdars and Thakurs who seek to assert or perpetuate a semi-independence wholly incompatible with their limited resources, and so, inevitably harmful to the interests of the inhabitants of the areas concerned.

I spoke also at the last session of this Chamber of a scheme for safeguarding standards of administration, particularly after the period of a Ruler's minority, by the application of formal constitutional methods for the transaction of State business. I referred too to the difficult and delicate problem of determining what proportion of a State's revenue can appropriately be earmarked for the use of the Ruler and his family, and what precisely are the items which should legitimately come within the scope of Civil Lists and Privy Purses. Here again I am denied the satisfaction of seeing final decisions reached during the period of my Viceroyalty. I deeply regret that that should be the case. For the issue is one of prime importance. And it is one in which close and critical interest is taken not only in India, but far outside the borders of this country. I do therefore sincerely trust that in regard to it an early solution, and one that may command general commendation not only in this country but outside, may be forthcoming. The recent discussions between representative Princes and my advisers have been of real value, and I confidently hope that they will shortly yield those solid and generally acceptable results to which I have just referred.

I would like to take this occasion to say how much as Crown Representative I value the advice and the frank expression of the views of representative Princes in matters such as this. For the decisions that have to be taken by the Crown Representative are often grave ones, and he will, I am sure, at all times be anxious to be assured, before he reaches a conclusion that he is fully cognisant of the views of the Princely Order on matters so directly concerning members of that Order, and of the considerations that weigh with them.

Your Highnesses will realise, as I do, that the problems that face you today are far from simple, and that there lies ahead a period in which problems more difficult still may have to be confronted. If the best interests of the States, the best interests of India, are to be safeguarded, we must be at pains to face the facts and be willing, even at the cost of sacrifice, to make such adjustments as the turn of world events makes necessary. I know from my own extensive journeyings among the States to what an extent certain Indian States have become an example and an inspiration to other parts of India. It must be our object to ensure that that shall be the case in every area. And, indeed, it is essential in the interests of the States and in the interests of their survival that they should not fall below modern standards of administration in any way. I need not assure Your Highnesses as I talk of those difficult and delicate matters that to the extent that I, or my representatives on my instructions, have had to take a particular line in regard to co-operative measures and the like, I have been concerned solely—and it is the true and legitimate function in this sphere of the Crown Representative—to awaken the indifferent to consciousness of the dangers that threaten them; to point out deficiencies; to suggest remedies; to co-ordinate individual initiatives for the benefit of all. But you may be certain that at all times the underlying consideration that has governed any decisions that I have had to take, and that will, I am sure, govern such decisions as may fall to be taken by my successors, is that the Indian States shall fit themselves to play that great and positive part in the development of India as a whole which their importance and their history justifies; and that it is to the interest of the Princely Order that such weakness as may today exist, whether in administration or organisation, shall be eliminated with the minimum of delay.

I would not like to conclude my observations today without again thanking Your Highnesses and the Princely Order for the invaluable help that you have given to the war effort, and without thanking you too, for the help that I have had in the efforts I have made while I have been Viceroy to further the modernization of administration in the States, and for the help you have given me on so very many critical issues directly affecting the well-being and the future of your States. These are testing times—all of us realise that. But Your Highnesses represent great and distinguished traditions and the

Indian States do as a whole represent a great potentiality for good in the times that lie before us. On the eve therefore of my laying down the great office which I have had the honour to hold I appeal to Your Highnesses here today, and through you to the Princely Order and to all who exercise authority and influence in the Indian States, to see to it that the splendid opportunity lying before the Rulers of those States is not missed, and to ensure that advantage is taken of it with such vigour and foresight, with such judicious blending of old and new, with such subordination of narrow personal and local interests, to true patriotism that the future of India—of the Indian States in close collaboration with British India—may be ensured, and that future generations may remember with gratitude the part played by the leaders of Princely India in securing the stability of that common and glorious inheritance.

When next this Chamber meets it will be under the Chairmanship of the great soldier and distinguished administrator who is now about to succeed me as Viceroy. Lord Wavell's wide range of knowledge and experience, the interest that he has always taken in the Indian States, are well known to Your Highnesses; and in the difficulties and the problems that have to be faced by the Indian States, I know that in him the States will have a wise, sagacious, and sympathetic friend. And now before I close my address let me thank you all once again, and that most warmly and sincerely, for all the help and the constant and generous support that you have given to me in the 7½ years during which I have had the honour to preside over the deliberations of Your Highnesses, and to represent the Crown in its dealings with the Indian States and the Princely Order.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.**—Your Excellency and Your Highnesses,

It is my sad duty to move the following resolution:—

"The Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King Emperor and the Queen Empress its deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement."

2. This resolution is an expression of the sentiments of intense grief and sorrow which the Ruling Princes of India have felt at the sad, and untimely and tragic demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent. Your Excellency is aware that the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India are proud of the ties which attach them to the person and throne of His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor and the House of Windsor. We look upon the British Crown and the Royal Family as the pivot of the Commonwealth and the sheet anchor of our treaties and engagements. As such, it is but natural that we share the joys and sorrows of our beloved King Emperor as our own.

3. Your Excellency, the devotion which the Empire pays to the person of Their Imperial Majesties, the King Emperor and the Queen Empress has been further enhanced and consecrated by the inspiring manner in which they have shared the troubles and privations entailed on their subjects and allies in the critical period of the present war. The whole Empire was shaken with anxiety over the bombing of the Buckingham Palace and the courageous manner with which Their Majesties bore the inconvenience and the danger involved has been a source of inspiration not only to the British Commonwealth but to the United Nations.

4. The circumstances in which His late Royal Highness gave away his youth and promising career in the service of the King and the country have earned him an immortality which shall endure.

5. His late Royal Highness has had a training which marked him out for a great future. Born in 1902, he entered the Royal Naval Training College before his fourteenth birthday in order to carry on the family tradition of a

sailor Prince. Ill-health however forced him to relinquish his naval career and in 1929, he was attached to the Foreign Office, and thus became the first civil servant from the Royal Family. Early in 1934, he made a 20,000 mile tour of South Africa, Rhodesia, the Belgian Congo and Portuguese territory. A born sportsman and experienced horseman, he showed promise of a great leader who combined a high sense of duty with an endearing love of adventure. He was many times in the bomb zones but never felt perturbed. He carried out with ardour and efficiency the task allotted to him, and set an example worthy of the Royal Family. He was marked out for the Governor-Generalship of Australia, but when duty called him to war service he was the first to offer himself.

6. His sad demise in an aircrash was mourned throughout the Empire. This war has left no families unscathed. The homes of the poor have been bombed; Buckingham Palace shared the same fate. The Royal Family by this sad and tragic demise, joins the many bereaved families who have lost their flower of manhood on active service. Truly did General MacArthur state in his message of condolence that no nobler characteristic distinguishes the great British race than their willingness to sacrifice Royal blood in the defence of ideals and country.

7. Your Excellency, a bereavement such as this cannot but affect profoundly all those who are attached to Their Majesties and the Royal Family. The Indian Princes feel the loss in particular, and in the name of the entire Order of the Princes I beg of Your Excellency kindly to convey our heart-felt condolences and sympathies to Their Imperial Majesties the King Emperor and the Queen Empress on this melancholy occasion in the terms embodied in the resolution which I now have the honour to move. At the same time, we solicit that our tender and heart-felt sympathies may be conveyed to the other members of the Royal Family including Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

**His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur:** Your Excellency and Your Highnesses :

It is with feelings of deep sorrow that I rise to second the resolution on the untimely and tragic demise of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, as a result of a fatal aircrash. The passing away of His Royal Highness cut short prematurely a career that was highly promising and shocked the entire Commonwealth and the Allied Nations.

His Royal Highness had distinguished himself as a sailor and airman. He was the most air-minded member of the Royal Family who had flown many thousands of miles under war conditions and was himself a highly skilled pilot.

Very widely travelled, the qualities and virtues of this Regal personality covered several walks of life. The unique and historical nomination of His Royal Highness to be the Governor-General of Australia, which the outbreak of war, unfortunately, prevented from materialising, went to show that, he was a statesman, richly endowed with qualities for a distinguished office.

The popularity that His Royal Highness enjoyed in his own country, especially during the difficult times Great Britain faced so superbly in 1941, by sharing calmly and with fortitude in the sufferings of his countrymen, earned for him their lasting admiration. The fact that the King Emperor's youngest brother was killed on active service, when he was discharging duties of a most onerous and responsible nature, is a proof, if it were at all needed, of the share the British Royal Family has all along been taking in the trials of their people in this—the greatest of all wars.

In the passing away of this popular Prince the British Empire and the Royal Family have suffered a great loss indeed and I beg to associate myself from all my heart with the feelings of this House in offering respectfully our condolences to Their Imperial Majesties. Her Majesty Queen Mary, Her

Royal Highness the dowager Duchess of Kent, for whom our profound sympathy goes out, and the other Members of the Royal Family in their cruel bereavement.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this resolution be adopted? Carried unanimously.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency and Your Highnesses; It is with a heart full of sorrow that I now rise to move the resolution of condolence on the sad demise of our distinguished leader His late Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Bikaner. In my speech this morning I referred briefly to his great contribution in the founding and the development of this Chamber. I touched also upon the eminent position established by him in the all-India Imperial and international deliberations. One is apt to ask what was the secret of the greatness of the man we mourn. There can be no two opinions in answering this question with regard to His late Highness of Bikaner. The secret of all that he achieved lay in his dominating sense of duty, inspiring self-confidence, and unrivalled passion for work. These qualities made him one of the outstanding figures of our times.

2. Moreover, as a conscientious Ruler, he realised early that his first duty was to his State and to his subjects, and he always kept that duty first. It was his proud boast that he was the most hard worked servant of his people, and that he was. Those of us who have been privileged to see him at work in his office at Bikaner or Gajner know full well the trojan spirit with which he worked intensely on an average of fourteen hours a day. These labours bore their fruit. He raised the annual revenue of his State ten-fold from Rs. twenty lacs to two crores almost without additional taxation, mainly through development. In a desert State with many natural disadvantages, his persistent efforts brought smiling valley of foodcrops and irrigated no less than six million twenty thousand acres. At the same time, from 85 miles he developed the railway lines of his State to no less than 800 miles. He was rightly proud of modern Bikaner. What Bikaner is today he made it through a lifetime devotion to duty. Every detail caught his eye. The style of the buildings, the heights of the railings, the width of the pavement, the distances of street lightings, these and other sundry details were not too small to attract his time and attention. He stood everywhere where the good of his people or the making of Bikaner called him. The impress of his great work for his people shall endure not only in the great buildings he constructed, in the great roads he laid down, in the great canals he spread but in the hearts of his grateful people.

3. Nor was his constructive genius limited to the boundaries of his State. His generosity touched many a cultural and educational institutions in British India. He was the Chancellor of the Benares Hindu University. He contributed generously to various educational and relief institutions and funds in British India irrespective of caste or colour. It was in no small measure due to his efforts at the Peace Conference that in deference to the feelings of Muslim India the terms of Treaty with Turkey were revised.

4. Nor was his vision of reform limited to industries and agriculture. He was a pioneer of political reform in the Indian States. He was one of the first to separate the Civil List from the administrative budget, to establish an independent High Court, to constitute a Legislative Assembly, to set up Council form of Government and to establish beneficent activities, particularly educational and medical, which have been the envy of British India as well as the State.

5. I can speak with the privilege of close friendship with him that where ever he was, he saw that in the transaction of the business of the State or the Chamber there were no arrears. His passion to expedite matters made him almost austere at times, but at heart he was generous in appreciation of the good work of others. His talk, which we shall always miss, was lighted up by flashes of that homely mellow-wisdom and subtle humour which were

peculiarly his own. He showed singular tact in the management of men and rare discernment in tackling difficult situations.

6. His integrity and patriotism were respected throughout India even by those who differed with him. At the Peace Conference, Versailles, where he had to rub shoulders with some of the greatest intellectual giants of the world he soon made a mark, and as Mr. Lloyd George has stated in his memoirs the Maharaja of Bikaner came to be regarded at the Peace table as one of the wise men of the East whose advice was often sought and was always helpful.

7. His personality and hospitality made Bikaner an international centre. Kings, Ministers, Ambassadors, Artists, Philosophers, Writers from all over the world who came to India made a point of visiting Bikaner. Mention must in particular be made of the famous tiger of France the late Mr. Clemenceau, who visited Bikaner and developed great friendship with the late Maharaja.

8. Your Excellency, such was the great man whose loss we mourn today. Such men do not die; they live for ever. I am sure that he would have us cherish his memory by working with redoubled energy in the pursuit of his great ideals. He has gone, covered with immortal glory and today in this House where he was the senior and the most honoured member, we mourn our common loss and pay our united homage to a gracious and cherished memory by moving this condolence. I beg to propose—

"The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow and deep sense of loss sustained by the entire Order of Princes at the sad demise of His late Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, one of the founders and the first Chancellor of this Chamber, who held the exalted office of Chancellor for five consecutive years and was General Secretary to the Conference of Princes for five years preceding the inauguration of the Chamber and Pro-Chancellor at the time of his demise, and offers its sincerest condolences to the bereaved family."

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala :** Your Excellency and Your Highnesses : It is with a heavy heart that I rise to second the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor to condole the most regrettable death of His late Highness Maharaja Shri Ganga Singhji of Bikaner, which has been mourned not only by the people of his State and the Princely Order, for whom he did so much, but also at distance beyond the seas by his numerous friends and admirers who loved and respected him as much as we did.

It is hardly necessary for me to speak of his remarkable achievements in the direction of the amelioration of the lot of his people ; of his services as a staunch and devoted friend of the Crown ; of his great contribution to India's war effort during the fateful years of 1914-18 and the conflict in which we are at present engaged ; of the prominent part he played in the Councils of the Empire during the last War and in the discussions which crystallized in various forms into measures destined to become steps in the evolution of this country's progress ; of his Princely hospitality ; of the high honours and distinctions which he received, and above all his unique services as Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes and in other capacities, to the Princely Order. He sought zealously to discharge the responsibilities of his high position and through years of careful planning and toil, he was enabled by his initiative and driving force to perform a miracle in converting the deserts of Bikaner into a land of canals, modern means of communications and imposing buildings that modern Bikaner is. It is given to very few mortals to see their visions come out true and that too against heavy odds and through their own perseverance and unremitting effort. His late Highness was one of them and one would, indeed, marvel at the extraordinary progress that Bikaner has made during his regime—an achievement rendered possible by his high qualities of constructive imagination and sustained endeavour. It was not only his own people who benefited from his creative genius ; the entire Princely Order is vastly indebted to him for what he did as a fearless champion of the rights, interests and prestige of the Ruling Princes in India. Gifted with shrewd political mind and an indomitable will, he was a pillar

of strength to the Princely India and the Chamber of Princes is a living monument of his deep and abiding interest in the welfare of his brother Princes. An inexhaustible source of energies, a towering personality, a great patriot and a statesman, he was an invaluable asset to the Princely Order and so long as the memory endures, the Ruling princes and India will remember, with deep sense of gratitude, the yeoman's service that His late Highness rendered to the Order of which he was a distinguished member. During the difficult days that lie ahead, his vast experience and profound wisdom would have proved sources of strength to all of us and we shall always greatly miss him in Princely parleys, of which he was an indispensable element. We are, indeed, the poorer today for his loss and the note struck by His Highness the Chancellor will find a deep responsive echo in the hearts of all of us.

I wholeheartedly associate myself with the tribute paid by His Highness the Chancellor to the memory of that illustrious member of the Princely Order, whose untimely death is a personal loss to each one of us and second this resolution.

**His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal :** In the passing of His Highness the late Ruler of Bikaner, an outstanding figure has been lost not to our narrow circle of Ruling Princes alone but to India and to the Empire.

I do not want to speak of GANGA SINGH, the Ruler, Soldier, and Statesman for these are subjects of universal knowledge. It is to Ganga Singh the revered personal friend of many years that I wish to pay my humble tribute.

The most loyal and steadfast of friends, a wise counsellor in hours of trouble, a lion-hearted fighter in the cause which he held to be right, it has never been my lot to know a friendship which I prized more, or the loss of which has caused me such abiding sorrow.

He was almost the last of the Old Guard among the Ruling Princes of our times and in these anxious days we will miss the vast experience, the ripe judgment and the unquenchable spirit which was a light and a guide to us all. We can still be true to a memory which we shall always cherish, by endeavouring to show in our lives and conduct, those qualities of which he was so shining an example, and which we need more than ever in these days when we are encompassed by so many and such diverse problems and perils.

With these few words I support the Resolution moved by the Chancellor.

**His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur :** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses : It is with profound sorrow that I speak on this Resolution. It is difficult to find adequately suitable terms to dwell fully on the diverse achievements and virtues of so remarkable a man as the late Maharaja Ganga Singhji of Bikaner. It was my privilege to have known him for 14 years and I make bold to submit that a full estimation of the loss sustained by the Indian States in the passing away of this outstanding Soldier-Statesman cannot be made at this stage. India, the Empire and the Princes are all the poorer without him. No Ruler could have achieved more for his State. No Ruler could have led a more occupied and distinguished life and to no one's lot could have fallen the fortune of bearing a more dignified and imposing presence. It is, therefore, but proper that his brother Princes, assembled in this Chamber, should pass a special separate Resolution as their last respectful tribute to his unforgettable memory and to the monumental service he rendered to their cause, India and the Empire.

Of the many high tributes paid to him, I cannot do better than to quote in full the striking tribute paid to His late Highness in a Political Department Notification, dated the 2nd February issued on the demise of this Great Prince which reads as follows :—

“ His Excellency the Viceroy has received with profound regret the news of the death on the 2nd instant of General His Highness Maharajadhiraja Raj Rajeshwar Shiromani Maharaja Shri Sir Ganga Singhji Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., K.C.B., A.D.C., LL.D., D.C.L., Maharaja of Bikaner.

His late Highness was born on the 13th October 1880 and, having succeeded his brother at the age of 7, as the 21st of his line, had been bearing the responsibilities of Rulership ever since 1898. His career was one of

unceasing and varied activity in the course of which His Highness' remarkable talents and forceful personality gained for him an outstanding position of eminence and renown. In his State he inaugurated a new era of progress and prosperity. In the Chamber of Princes he played a great part which will have its place in Indian history. In the wider sphere of Imperial and international affairs he enhanced not only his own high reputation but the prestige of the Princes and people of his motherland. In his relations with successive King Emperors it was his particular pride to render unswerving loyalty and devoted personal service both in peace and war.

On the close of this full and distinguished life India and the Commonwealth, remembering his proud boast that he had fought for the Crown in three Continents, lament the passing of a soldier-statesman."

With these words I have the honour to support the Resolution..

**His Highness the Maharaja of Panna:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses : Words fail me to give an adequate expression to my profound feelings of sorrow at the passing away of such a Great Prince as His late Highness of Bikaner.

We all mourn his loss particularly at this juncture when his towering personality would have been a source of great strength to the Empire in general and Princely India in particular.

His late Highness—a soldier-statesman of international reputation—was one of the founders of the Chamber of Princes and though he will always be greatly missed by this Chamber, his spirit, I pray, will always be there to guide the deliberations of this great body of Princes.

With these few words I have the privilege to support this resolution.

His Highness the Raja of Mandi also spoke.

**His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses : Many words have been spoken in this Chamber this morning on the qualities inherent in His late Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner and be it far from my mind to enlarge those tributes in any other way except with the personal feeling that I had for His late Highness, and the stamp that his personality carried on the minds of those who came into contact with him. His bust today, cold and lifeless in death, makes me remember those happier days when he was full of life and energy. He devoted his best for the services of the Princely Order. H. H.'s various achievements inside and outside the State are too well known. But I want to refer today only to two things for which this Chamber will always remember him. One, its very conception and institution—that it was through the tireless energy of His late Highness along with other illustrious Princes that this Chamber was born and the other that when in 1938 many were trying for its death, it was rejuvenated through his personality in the form of the Reorganisation Scheme. It has been my privilege, and I consider it an honour that I have had the fortune to be in contact with so great a personality for so many years, and in paying tribute to his memory today may I venture to say that in the service of the Crown he was tireless and indefatigable and the ties that bound him to the Person and Throne of H. M. the King-Emperor indissoluble. H. H. was not only a great soldier but also a very great statesman and we mourn his loss all the more to-day because with the end of this war in sight we have to win the peace and it is on the table of peace that his absence will be most felt. In the whole of Rajputana there was not born a Prince in the modern days that could equal him in wider statesmanship and fortitude and we can say truly of him that he was a friend of friend and foe of foe. We live in momentous times, the ancient ideas of kingship in India are undergoing constitutional and drastic changes. We require counsel on the tables of the Chamber of Princes today and it breaks my heart to see that at such a time the cruel hand of fate has taken away from us our most cherished and beloved adviser. It is I think fitting to H. H.'s memory that I mention the deep love he always had for the well-being of the smaller States and their peoples. He was the benevolent Ruler of Bikaner, a very large State in

Rajputana, and still he did all he could to safeguard and preserve the interests of the smallest units. Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I need not say any more except that such people are not born everyday and in paying my tribute to his memory and to his personality let me quote at the end the words of a famous poet, Lord Tennyson, and say:—

With honour, honour, honour, honour, to him,

Eternal honour to his name.

**His Highness the Raja of Sangli :** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses : I rise to support the resolution of condolence at the demise of His late Highness Maharaja Sir Ganga Singhji Bahadur of Bikaner which has been so feelingly moved, seconded and supported before the House. I associate myself whole-heartedly with the tribute which Their Highnesses who have preceded me have paid to the memory of His late Highness.

It would hardly be possible to find a parallel, either in Indian India or in the Provinces, to the high water-mark of the progress that the Bikaner State has achieved during the reign of His late Highness. Even a casual visitor to the State cannot fail to be struck with the monumental work that His Highness did in raising buildings of exquisite architectural beauty as if by a magic wand out of a desert. The diverse branches of beneficent State activity could not but permanently endear him to his people. The high degree to which he developed the wonderful system of railways and irrigation in the State have ensured its prosperity in a manner undreamt of before. So also can the many amenities that he provided for the people challenge comparison with those to be found in advanced British Indian Provinces. Thus even in the long line of Rulers who have adorned the Gadi of the ancient House of Bikaner, His late Highness has carved for himself a place of pride which will long live in the loving memory of his people.

3. His Highness has been aptly styled as one of the fathers of the Chamber of Princes. It was his unique vision and statesmanship crystallised in the present Chamber which was instrumental in helping the Indian States and their Rulers to merge out of the cramping atmosphere of isolation and play their part outside the limits of their States. Without it the Indian States and Princes would have been unequal to the task of making their contribution to the solution of many a difficult constitutional problem. It was a triumph of the constructive genius of His late Highness, his Princely colleagues and British statesmen that the Chamber of Princes which was inaugurated by a Royal proclamation has ever since worked to safeguard and advance the position and interests of the States and their Rulers. It was a source of inspiration to see how His Highness made the interests of the Chamber his own. There was not a problem of the Chamber in which he had not an important lead to give to the Princely Order. It was my unique privilege to have been associated with him on the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes ever since 1924, and at the Round Table Conference in London, and I shall always cherish the proud memory of the sagacity, statesmanship and fearlessness with which he fought many a battle of the Chamber. His unremitting and devoted labours in the cause of the Chamber found their culmination in the influence which the body wielded in the discussions at the Indian Round Table Conferences in London and the Federal deliberations. The whole Princely Order remains indebted to him for the valuable services he rendered to its cause. His late Highness further brought lustre to the name of India as one of her ambassadors at the several international gatherings and conferences in which he participated with such distinction.

5. His passing away leaves us all forlorn and in the dark. The Princely star, illuminating not only Indian India but India as a whole and the Empire with his rich wisdom, has set. We cannot see his martial figure and here his noble voice again. In him the Chamber has lost one of its greatest leaders. In line with kings of the past he has left us an imperishable inheritance in the magnificent inspiration of his achievements. That precious inheritance we shall always treasure. In paying His Highness our homage let us resolve to serve with unity and devotion the Chamber which he so well loved.

**The Raja of Khairagarh:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to perform the sorrowful but necessary duty of supporting the resolution so ably and feelingly moved by His Highness the Chancellor and so effectively seconded by Their Highnesses of Patiala, Bhopal and Dungarpur. I consider it a proud privilege to be given the opportunity of paying my tribute to His late Highness Maharaja Shri Ganga Singh Ji Bahadur who was a star of the first magnitude in the firmament of Princely India. During all the long years of his glorious and illustrious reign, by most careful planning and detailed attention to minutest things, by administrative ability of the highest order with which he was blessed, he not only succeeded in raising the income of his State from twenty lacs to nearly two crores, but also succeeded in rendering signal services to his subjects, whose destiny it had pleased Providence to place in his hands. Maharaja Shri Ganga Singh J. Bahadur was an asset not only to his State, but also to the country and to the whole Empire, which he served in several roles as a soldier, a statesman and an administrator who had left indelible impression in the minds of all. He was one of the founders of the Chamber of Princes and the strength and prestige which this institution commands is in a great degree due to his wise thought and inspiration when for nearly a decade he guided its destinies as Chancellor and ever afterwards. His industry was indefatigable, and work was the breath of his life. Even the minutes details of a work or a scheme did not escape his argus eye. If I may be permitted to strike a personal note, I travelled with His late Highness to England in the year 1937 and I also attended the Golden Jubilee of his reign. I then came to learn of the affection and the breadth of mind with which he used to look upon younger rulers and confer upon them the blessings of his wise counsel and guidance. The impression of his untiring energy and painstaking nature, left upon my mind, is abiding. His late Highness was a man among Princes and a Prince among men, a rare personality which one does not often meet with in this world. His late Highness always strove hard for the betterment of the Princely order and I trust his bust which we have installed in this hall, will ever prove for us a fountain-head of inspiration. May his soul rest in peace. With these words and again expressing the sense of deep and irreparable loss felt by the whole of the Princely Order on the demise of such an illustrious Ruler, I conclude my speech and support the resolution for which I stood before you.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** In supporting this Resolution You Highnesses would desire to stand in your places for a moment. Carried.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses :

I rise to perform the sad part of my duty this morning to move the resolution of condolence on the sad demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar, the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Raja of Jhabua and on the late Rajas of Khilchipur and Kurundwad (Junior). We are grieved to learn today of the sad demise of His late Highness of the Maharaja of Cochin. He represented a great and ancient house, which has enriched its great historic-traditions with an efficient administration and very progressive reforms. The last census revealed that the percentage of literacy in Cochin over 60 per cent. as in Travancore excelled by about 80 per cent. of that of any Province in India. His late Highness represented the old school of wise Rulers who were an asset to our Order. We are poorer for him.

2. His late Highness Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar was a promising Ruler with Oxford education whose career was abruptly snapped at the prime of youth. He was for many years a member of the Standing Committee of Princes, he took special interest in the development of education, rural uplift, indigenous industries, medical facilities and in social reform in his State. His memory will be associated with the many new schools which he opened in his State and the touring dispensary and the leprosy clinic founded by him. He held the rank of a Lieutenant in 11/19th Hyderabad Regiment and wrote good poetry and edited some valuable books including some translations of Shakespear. He was one of the two Ruling Princes who sat on the recent Rewa Commission, and the spirit of impartiality and independence shown by him endeared him to his Brother Princes.

3. His late Highness of Ajaigarh represented a distinguished house in Central India and ruled over his State for about 23 years. He was a wise ruler whose zeal for administrative reform was recognised by the conferment of hereditary full judicial powers on his dynasty.

4. His late Highness of Jhabua was a conscientious Ruler who introduced several reforms in his State including fair settlement of agricultural tenure, improvement in judiciary, and development of medical relief and education.

5. The late Raja Saheb of Khilchipur took special interest in the welfare of his subjects and sanctioned a revised revenue settlement in his State which resulted in a decrease of rates in many regions. He also introduced elections in village Panchayats and made primary education free throughout the State both for boys and girls.:

6. From amongst the Constituent members this Chamber has sustained great loss by the sad demise of the Raja Saheb of Kurundwad (Junior.)

7.—Your Excellency I now commend the following resolution for the acceptance of this Chamber :—

"The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow at the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar, the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Raja of Jhabua and of the late Rajas of Khilchipur and Kurundwad (Junior) together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families."

His Highness the Raja of Mandi also spoke.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative.** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this Resolution be adopted. Carried.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar :** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses : It is with great pleasure that I rise to move the resolution of welcome to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Maharaja of Bikaner, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Raja of Jhabua, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar, and to the Raja of Khilchipur on their accession to the *Gaddi* and to their highnesses the Rana of Barwani, the Maharaja of Chhatarpur and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dharangadhra and to the Thakore Saheb of Wadhwan on their assumption of ruling powers.

2. His Highness the Maharaja of Ajaigarh ascends to the *Gaddi* at a mature age fully alive to his responsibility.

3. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner is no stranger to this Chamber. He is an accomplished Prince highly educated, widely travelled and fully trained in administration having held the post of Chief Minister in his State for about five years. Moreover, he has also served his King and country in active service and is a keen sportsman. I hope I am not giving away any secrets in stating the fact that as a member of the Standing Committee he has already made an impression by his grasp and study of problems and rare charm of personality. This has encouraged me to look forward to the day when he may rise to the highest places of confidence in this Chamber.

5. His Highness the Maharaja of Charkhari succeeds to an ancient heritage and we trust that he will prove a worthy representative of the traditions associated with the Charkhari House.

6. His Highness the Raja of Jhabua is a promising Ruler who has great future before him, and we wish him God-speed at the threshold of his Princely career.

7. His Highness the new Ruler of Jhalawar is a charming Prince who received good education in India and in England and is a keen sportsman. He finished his I.C.S. probation and Muradabad Police training with distinction and only last year was appointed by his late lamented father as Police and Army Minister in the State, his genial temperament, brilliant career and high sense of responsibility mark him out as a Prince with great future.

8. The Raja Saheb of Khilchipur inherits the great traditions of an ancient house of Central India.

9. His Highness the Rana of Barwani is a Prince with great promise for whom I have high personal affection. He obtained his diploma at the Dally College Indore and thereafter passed the Intermediate examination with distinction. He also received training at the Officers Training Corps, Indore.

10. His Highness the Maharaja of Chhatarpur succeeds a well run State which should provide ample scope for his talents in the constructive fields of public service.

11. His Highness the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dharangadhra is my nephew and both as an uncle and as the Chancellor of this Chamber I have great hopes in him. He is steady and promising, and has a great sense of duty.

11. The Thakore Saheb of Wadhwani is my neighbour in Kathiawar and has already shown high promise as the result of his education in England and training in India.

12. All these Princes whom I have the pleasure of welcoming today have taken their responsibilities at a very critical juncture in the evolution of the Indian States. The gaze of a critical world is set on the institution of Indian Kingship. I feel confident that equipped as these Princes are with tradition, education and training, they will make constructive and steady contribution towards the improvement of their States and the happiness and prosperity of their subjects. Moreover, I trust that they would appreciate the imperative need of solidarity amongst Princely Order at this juncture and will prove a source of strength to this Chamber. I now move the resolution—

"The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Maharaja of Bikaner, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Raja of Jhabua the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar and to the Raja of Khilchipur on their accession to the *Gaddi*, and to Their Highnesses the Rana of Barwani, the Maharaja of Chhatarpur and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra and to the Thakor Saheb of Wadhwani on assumption of their ruling powers and wish them a long and prosperous life."

**His Highness the Raja of Sangli :** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses : I rise to second the Resolution His Highness the Chancellor has moved. In doing so it is enough for me to say that I associate myself whole-heartedly with the sentiments expressed by His Highness the Chancellor. It is a privilege to be able to offer in particular my most cordial welcome on the floor of the House to His Highness of Bikaner on his succession to the illustrious heritage left his late lamented father whom we all honour and revere. I share Your Excellency's hope and that of the Chancellor that His Highness is marked to play in the year to come the great and heroic part played by his distinguished father in the service of his State, his Order and the Empire. I wish also to associate myself with the welcome and best wishes offered by His Highness the Chancellor to other Princes mentioned in this Resolution which I have pleasure in seconding.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner :** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I thank you all most sincerely for your generous expression of sympathy at the bereavement which I, my family and my people have suffered by the demise of my revered and beloved Father of blessed memory. I was especially touched by the moving terms in which Your Excellency has alluded, in your speech unveiling the bust of my father, to the loss of one who was undoubtedly a pillar of the Empire and for long the accredited spokesman of the Princes of India. Equally am I grateful to His Highness the Chancellor and those of my brother Princes who have paid such glowing tributes to my father and expressed their sympathy to me in my sorrow.

In the hall of this august Chamber, which he did so much to bring into being, one feels his presence and personality in a measure which is truly overwhelming. No one knows better than Your Excellency and my brother Princes present here and specially His late Highness' Colleagues on the Princes' Standing Committee how much time he devoted to, and what interest he evinced in, the work connected with all that pertained to this Chamber and how he plunged himself heart and soul in matters relating to the welfare and advancement of the Princely Order even at the sacrifice of his own health. The paternal solicitude he showed in furthering its political and constitutional growth in its turn requires no mention on my part. It was his firm conviction that the future position of the States in an all-India policy can be assured only through effective combined action.

The tributes paid to him today enable me to realise more than ever the extent of my loss. I however derive comfort from the knowledge that my sorrow is shared so extensively, for sorrow shared is itself a bond.

I am indeed grateful to Your Excellency and Your Highnesses for the cordial welcome which you have extended to me today. There is, I trust, no need for me to assure Your Highnesses of my genuine desire to co-operate whole-heartedly in the work of this Chamber and in all other matters relating to our common welfare. It is, I know, a great tradition of unremitting service to the entire Order of Princes that I have inherited and I can but promise to do my very best in upholding that tradition and shall ever keep in mind the obligations which I owe to the Princes and States of India as a whole. I am happy to know that I shall have in an abundant measure the goodwill and sympathy of Your Highnesses in the performance of the tasks that lie ahead of me in this field as in others.

Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I thank you from the bottom of my heart both for your words of condolence and sympathy and for the cordial welcome you have extended to me in this Chamber.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative :** Is it Your Highnesses pleasure that this Resolution be agreed to. Passed unanimously.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative :** I think that concludes the business arranged for today and I have only to remind Your Highnesses that it has been arranged for a photograph to be taken at this stage at the usual place. Adjourned until the usual time tomorrow morning.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND DAY.

*15th October, 1943.*

The Chamber assembled at the Princes' Chamber, Council House at 11-15 A.M., on Friday, the 15th October 1943. His Excellency the Crown Representative presided.

The following Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present:—

### **Assam.**

His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur.

### **Central India States.**

His Highness the Nawab of Baoni.  
His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Datia.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas.  
(Senior Br.)  
His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas  
(Junior Br.)

His Highness the Raja of Jhabua.  
The Rao of Jigni.  
The Nawab of Kurwai.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Panna.  
His Highness the Raja of Sailana.

### **Deccan States.**

The Raja of Bhor.  
The Raja of Jamkhandi.

His Highness the Raja of Jath.  
The Raja of Kurundwad (Senior.)  
The Raja of Miraj (Senior.)  
His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

### **Eastern States.**

The Raja of Bamra.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.  
The Maharaja of Kalahandi.  
The Raja of Keonjhar.

His Highness the Raja of Khairagarh.  
The Maharaja of Patna.  
The Raja of Seraikela.  
The Maharaja of Sonepur.  
The Raja of Telchar.

### **Gujarat States.**

His Highness the Nawab of Cambay.  
The Raja of Chhota-Udepur.

His Highness the Raja of Jawhar.

### **Gwalior Agency.**

His Highness the Maharaja (Scindia) of Gwalior.

### **Mysore Residency.**

The Raja of Sandur.

### **Punjab States.**

The Raja of Baghat.  
His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur.  
His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur.  
His Highness the Raja of Faridkot.  
The Raja of Kalsia.  
The Nawab of Loharu.  
His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Sirmur.  
His Highness the Raja of Suket.

### **Rajputana States.**

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur.  
His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur.  
His Highness the Maharao of Kotah.  
The Raja of Shahpura.

### **Western India States.**

His Highness the Maharaja of Bhavnagar.  
His Highness the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhراجадхра.  
The Chief of Muli.  
His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.

The Chief of Wadia.  
His Highness the Maharana Raj Saheb of Wankaner.

His Excellency the Crown Representative took the Chair and called upon His Highness the Chancellor to speak.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is a matter of sincere gratification that Your Excellency's term of office as our President has been associated with the addition of 31 new members of this Chamber in their own right. This question has been hanging for over fifteen years and we are grateful to you for settling it.

2. The question of the enlargement of the Chamber of Princes, as you are aware, has long been under consideration, and after a careful examination of the claims of various Rulers for the membership of the Chamber, the Standing Committee of Princes recommended two lists for Your Excellency's consideration. In the first list, 27 rulers were recommended for admission forthwith as full members of this Chamber. In the second list, 24 names were included with the recommendation that as many as Your Excellency considered appropriate out of this list might also be admitted as members in their own right to the Chamber. Later, the Standing Committee added two more names to the second list.

3. In 1940 Your Excellency agreed to the admission of 26 out of the 27 Rulers recommended by the Standing Committee in the first list. Later, the Ruler of Shahpura remaining out of this list was also admitted as a member. That completed the first list.

4. We are happy that Your Excellency has been able to lend consideration to the claims of some of the Rulers recommended by the Standing Committee in the second list. Four Rulers out of this list have already been admitted. It is understood that all these new admissions have been made under sub-para 2 of Clause 2 of the Constitution of the Chamber of Princes, which provides for the admission to the Chamber of the Rulers who in the opinion of Your Excellency exercise such full or practically full internal powers as entitle them to the membership of the Chamber.

5. With these additions, the membership of the Chamber of Princes now stands at 140. This still leaves a margin of 10 to bring the strength of the membership of the Chamber to 150 which was contemplated in the discussions on this subject. The Standing Committee trust that before long the claims of other Rulers recommended in list 2 will receive sympathetic consideration.

6. It gives me great pleasure to offer a hearty welcome to my brother Princes recently admitted to the Chamber of Princes as members in their own right. I need hardly assure them that the accident of their being late comers in the Chamber will in no manner detract, so far as we are concerned, from their status of full membership of the Chamber. At the same time, I feel confident that these new members of the Chamber will prove a source of strength to the Chamber and the Princeely Order by taking active interest in the deliberations and by showing constructive solicitude for the welfare of their subjects. I now beg to move the following resolution:—

"The Chamber of Princes extends a cordial welcome to the Rulers recently admitted as Members of the Chamber in their own right and confidently hopes that by continuing to take an active interest in the affairs of this Chamber and the ordered progress of their respective States, these members will prove a source of added strength to the Chamber of Princes."

**Raja of Bhor:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is with genuine pleasure that I rise to second the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor—the Maharaja Jamsaheb of Nawanagar, with his masterly ability, offering our warmest and heartiest congratulations and welcome to the members recently admitted to the Narendra Mandal.

The question of the enlargement of the Chamber by the addition of more members in their own right had been on the tapis for a long time and it is indeed gratifying to find that the strength of the Chamber is gradually augmented by the addition of new members—who come from different regions of India. His Highness the Rajasaheb of Phaltan, one of the recent addition, hails from the

Deccan—the region to which I myself belong. By this year's accretion, the view that the Chamber shculd be fully representative of the big and small States is gradually being materialized.

The Indian States along with the greater part of the world—nay practically the whole world—are passing through a very critical time—a time of unprecedented stress and strain. In these circumstances, the responsibilities which devolve on our Princely Order to not only justify their ancestral traditions of astute statesmanship and martial valour but also to shoulder the onerous responsibilities in the service of their subjects, are indeed very great. It is with confidence I say that the brother Princes who have now come in the Chamber today will appreciate the exigencies of the present difficult times and by their inherent sense of service make contributions worthy of the noble traditions of our Order. We also all feel that with the advent of these new members the strength and the range of our work will be widened and the usefulness enhanced. I trust that the qualities of head and heart with which these new Princes are endowed are a guarantee that united counsel will be of immense use to this Chamber's deliberation. It is hardly necessary for me to weary this Assembly with my more remarks and I beg to tender my personal greetings and good wishes to our new members.

**The Maharaja of Patna:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is my pleasant duty to support the resolution of welcome to the Rulers who have been recently admitted as members of the Chamber of Princes in their own right, namely, to the Rulers of Kalsia, Kurwai, Phaltan, Shabpura and Talcher. It is our good fortune that during the tenure of office of H. E. the present Crown Representative and H. H. the present Chancellor the Chamber of Princes has gained an accretion of strength by the addition of a fairly large number of members in their own right. I believe I am voicing the sentiments and innermost feelings of every member of the Chamber of Princes when I say that we are all individually and collectively delighted at the achievement of this result for which our grateful thanks are due to H. E. the Crown Representative and H. H. the Chancellor. To the additional members who have entered into the portals of the Narendra Mandal during the course of the year we offer our warm congratulations and fervently hope that their presence will be a source of additional strength in the deliberations of this august body in the difficult days that lie ahead. With these few words I support the Resolution moved by H. H. the Chancellor and commend it for the acceptance of the Chamber.

**H. E. the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this resolution be approved? Carried unanimously.

**The Nawab of Kurwai:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is with a tremendous sense of gratitude, which I find it difficult to express, that I rise to thank Your Highnesses for the warm welcome given to us to-day as Members of this august assembly. It is undoubtedly due to Your Highnesses' earnest and untiring efforts and great determination to gather the few missing links to strengthen the chain of our order, that assured our presence here to-day. I dare say, there are even now a few links missing, which without doubt, in view of Your Excellency's and Your Highnesses' zealous endeavours when added will greatly strengthen that chain.

The Chamber of Princes representing as it does the flower of Indian aristocracy has undoubtedly a proud record of services. To-day it has blossomed into a solid, united and brilliant body, serving earnestly not only the interest of our order, but also of our people and our country.

Its tradition of loyalty and devotion to His Majesty the King Emperor, its close and active co-operation with His Majesty's Government always acted as a magnetic urge to those of us who for some reason or other had not the privilege until now, to be its Members. Words fail to adequately express our deep sense of gratitude to Your Excellency and Your Highnesses for having given to us an opportunity to be of service to our brother Princes and to His Majesty the King-Emperor, his Government and his Empire.

May God help us to prove ourselves worthy of this great trust.

At the end we again heartily not only thank but also congratulate Your Excellency and Your Highnesses for, at least as far as we are concerned, these glorious excavations.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I deem it a privilege to move this resolution which embodies and reiterates the declaration of the Indian Princes on the war situation. The resolution states that "the Chamber of Princes records its expression of heartiest gratification at the recent important victories of the Imperial and Allied Forces in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Russia and other theatres of war, and is proud to learn that the Indian troops have played a magnificent part in these achievements. The Chamber requests His Excellency the Crown Representative to convey to His Imperial Majesty and his Government, including in particular the courageous and inspiring Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the sincerest congratulations of the Princes of India on these glorious victories, and reiterates the firm determination of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India to continue to render every possible assistance for the achievement of final victory and for the defence of their Motherland and the vindication of high principles of justice and sanctity of treaties".

2. Your Excellency has been pleased to refer in your address today, in very generous terms, to the value of the war effort of the States. The credit for organising the war efforts of the States as well as of British India is primarily yours. India, England and the Allied nations owe Your Excellency a gratitude which cannot be repaid. We, of the States are proud of what little we could render. We are determined to spare nothing that we can offer. We are pledged to do all we can. It means to us the fulfilment of our solemn obligations to the Crown which we on our part are determined to respect. Moreover, we have felt all along that this is not only England's war, it is India's war. It is the war of humanity in defence of its highest ideals. Your Excellency is aware that our war effort has throughout been spontaneous, and that we set only one condition on it that we shall not stop till the enemy is routed and the world cause at stake is vindicated.

3. About four years ago the Princes of India assembled in this Chamber, at a time when the final issue of the war hung in the balance and in fact the secret preparations of the enemy had given him a vantage which seemed most ominous. They were critical times and particularly after the collapse of France the dice seemed cast on the wrong side. Many wavered. We, however, are happy to feel that at that perilous hour the Princes of India—big and small—with exception made their choice. There they have stood unshaken, and in all the States from the biggest to the smallest the Princes and their loyal subjects have marshalled their fullest resources in men, money and material for the common cause.

4. The latest available figures for the *direct* war contributions and investments of the States are as follows:—

(a) *Contributions*—

Non-recurring . . . . .	Rs. 3,50,63,000	} annual
Recurring . . . . .	Rs. 38,84,000	

(b) *Investments*.—

(In thousands of Rupees.)

3 per cent. Defence loans . . . . .	3,53,68
Interest Free Bonds . . . . .	70,72
Defence Savings Certificates. . . . .	45,42
Defence Savings Banks . . . . .	3,40
Defence Savings Stamps . . . . .	33

These figures do not take into account the contributions and investments made by the States through the agency of Banks, or by Banks themselves through their Head Offices situate in British India even though their branches

cater both for British India and the States. Moreover, figures of the sale of Defence Savings Certificates at the British Indian Post Offices in the States have been included in the totals published for the nearest British India Post Offices in the Postal Circle. The recurring contributions of the States are not included in the total of non-recurring contributions from the States. If all these items are taken into account, our war contributions and investments would be substantially augmented.

5. Apart from these direct contributions, Your Excellency is aware of the substantial assistance given by the States in man-power and war equipment. Many members of our families are today on active service with Allied forces. There are several Ruling Princes and many heirs-apparent who have been privileged to serve as ordinary commissioned officers. Some of us visited allied fronts to hearten and encourage our units stationed there. I must, however, mention in particular the heir-apparent of Sikkim, the Maharajkumars of Mayurbhanj and Sangli who gave their lives for their King and Country while serving with the Indian Air Force.

6. The war situation has necessitated substantial additions to our security budgets. This in the case of many States ranges from 300 to 400 per cent. of their pre-war budgets, even excluding the expenditure on civic guards, A. R. P. and additional police etc. The States have cheerfully borne these burdens. Moreover, many of our Units have been despatched for service under the Crown in India and abroad. There are at present over 12 Indian State Forces Units serving overseas and about 46 in British India. In addition to these, about 40 units have been raised by the States. This could only be maintained by a steady effort to recruit, train and send fresh reinforcements. We have been doing it, and it is calculated that so far nearly 3,00,000 recruits for the fighting forces have been contributed directly or indirectly by the States. Nor has our contribution been restricted to the armed forces. From year to year, as call came, large numbers of trained technicians and unskilled labourers have been sent by the States. I have not been able yet to compile the total figures but to mention only two instances, Travancore and Cochin alone have supplied nearly 70,000 men.

7. Our factories have been turning out large quantities of war material, such as coal, agricultural products, timber, mica, shellac, iron and steel, textile, rubber, chemicals and various other goods including tinned fruit, woollen goods, tea, cement, electrical goods, manganese and ammunitions. Other products have also been sent out by the States. Contributions from the States also include large figures given for aircraft, naval vessels and armoured vehicles.

8. Your Excellency, we rejoice today, as we have a right to rejoice, over the recent notable victories of the allied forces, and we are proud of the fact that our troops have played a heroic part in these achievements. The honour of laying the policy and plan for these victories belongs primarily to the dauntless and inspiring Prime Minister of England and to the great President of our Powerful American ally, and the credit of implementing it goes to the noble sacrifices of our comrades in Russia and China and to the heroes of the allied and Indian forces who have braved and achieved so much.

9. It was my privilege under Your Excellency's kind invitation to represent the Indian Princes at the Imperial War Cabinet. I could not be expected to divulge here any of the secrets of the War Cabinet, but I feel within my rights in stating the fact that the status accorded to the representatives of India at the Imperial War Cabinet was the same, as accorded to the Representatives of England and the Dominions. I deem it my duty to offer, from the floor of this Chamber, on my behalf and that of the Princes whom I had the honour to represent, my grateful thanks to the Right Honourable Mr. Winston Churchill for the kindness and courtesy extended throughout my association with the Imperial War Cabinet.

Your Excellency, Your Highnesses may I have your permission to say a few words about my personal experiences in England. On arrival in England

my first impression to my pleasant surprise was that England was the same as ever before. It was still a smiling country as if there were no war until you saw the scars by going through some towns in taxis—the private cars were very few. I also noticed to my pleasant surprise the cheerful spirit with which the people were carrying on their daily work. I found that the working classes of England were better in health than I had ever seen them before. I have a right to say this because I had not seen them since 1909, and I found the spirit was still the same which I have seen on a cricket field with the last batsman going in and he had 300 runs to make and he still hoped that he had chances of making them. I found the people of Great Britain were of the same cheer and I did not get there when everything was so cheery as it is today. I had talked with the highest and with the humblest in the factory and in the workshop. He or she said that before long they will get old Hun, and that they have got the old Hun to the stage where they wanted to and he will never come up again. I found a strange change in the British race, they had dropped the weather as a topic of conversation and they had taken up which was again stranger still to Britisher the topic of food such as fish, fresh eggs and a joint. I found of all the things that impressed me most the women of Great Britain shouldering the burden of war a 100 per cent. but rather I would be justified in saying a thousand per cent. (Cheers). The most striking thing I saw was that in every place they were trying best to get on with the war, and this I tell you again to show that the same basic idea was prevalent all over the country. They had no politics, there was no Conservative Party, there was no Labour Party, there was no Liberal Party, there was only one Party to get on with the war. That was the only party I saw in the whole of Great Britain. I also saw the feeling that why does the Government had only put £-/10/6 in a Pound and did not raise it to £-/17/6 as a tax as the balance will be good enough to subsist on till the war had terminated. I saw workmen both male and female in the shipyards and in the factories where ammunition or otherwise from the smallest pin to the biggest thing was being made. Behind the gates of shipyards and factories every item for the war was being made. Ships were being produced in three or four days. They said that they would make them quicker and I saw no less than 5 ships being launched in the course of one afternoon. Their shipyards had turned out one and a half ship a day. The same spirit prevailed in the factory where even the girls having done their 8½ hours a day volunteered for 3½ hours more on some different job. If they turned a handle this way it should be turned the other way. I found the miners heartier than ever in spite of the fact that they had seen so many of their best friends gone away to the Front and although their number was far shorter than in peace time they were still turning out almost as much quantity as in peace. I have seen in the Services and the Army people who were itching to get across and have a go at the old Jerry. In order to acquit themselves better they were undergoing training at schools which gave them real battle practice. One day, however, unluckily one got a revolver bullet in the camp, and at one place two officers lost their lives. But did this stop the battle practice? Certainly not. As far as the work in the War Cabinet was concerned we were treated, as I tell you exactly the same as any other member in the War Cabinet, that is to say, either a U. K. Representative or the Dominion Representative. We were told first that we would not be allowed to be present to take part in the Home affairs discussions, but later on we were allowed to take part in the whole discussions. So neither my colleague Sir R. Mudaliar nor I have any feeling that we were not treated on the same lines. The only people who have a feeling are the members of the United Kingdom who say that these people are talking about Home affairs while they cannot talk in the Viceroy's Executive Council, so we had one up. Your Excellency, my only regret was that a sad event called me back and cut short my sojourn and co-operation with a mighty body which was led by the most towering personality. He seemed to be untiring to be thriving actually on work which often carried him from the early hours of the night up to 4 o'clock in the morning but he arrived at the next conference as fresh as ever before. Even while travelling

abroad in the most uncomfortable planes going up very high he returned happier than ever before, and even smoking three cigars in one hour and 33 minutes did not seem to affect him at all. He possessed a dominating personality, but he was never averse to criticism because he knew his job better than any one else and indeed the critics were convinced that he was right.

10. Your Excellency, uncharitable persons have already started warning us, that when the time comes England will let down her friends to embrace her enemies because of their nuisance value. Please tell England that we of the Indian States repudiate such insinuations as mischievous, and that we have full faith in England's plighted word and in her respect for solemn obligations. Moreover, I am a soldier, Sir, and I know that politicians may have short memories, but the soldiers are not apt to forget their comrades-in-arms. It is, therefore, that we welcome particularly the appointment of Lord Wavell as an index of England's desire not to forget those who have proved friends in need. As such, we feel confident that, at the appropriate time, India will be given due place on the front bench of the Peace Table, and that the representatives of the States will be assigned the place to which they are entitled.

11. Your Excellency, now that by God's grace we are worshipping in the small hours of the morning waiting for the dawn of the final victory, it is essential that we should review the whole situation and prepare ourselves to win the peace, and to keep pace with the beneficent and social services which would be called for the postwar period. I am glad that we of the Indian States have already applied ourselves to these vital problems of post-war reconstruction. In addition to the association of our representatives with the Policy Committees relating to Post-war Reconstruction set up by the Government of India, the States have started doing necessary spade-work and preparation individually as well as under the auspices of the Chamber of Princes.

12. Your Excellency, the news of bombing of Madras adds to our resolve to crush the Japanese menace for the honour of our Motherland. I personally take these attempts as the final flicker of the flame.

13. I now beg to move the resolution which stands in my name.

"The Chamber of Princes records its expression of heartiest gratification at the recent important victories of the Imperial and Allied Forces in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Russia and other theatres of war and is proud to learn that the Indian troops have played a magnificent part in these achievements. The Chamber requests His Excellency the Crown Representative to convey to His Imperial Majesty and his Government, including in particular the courageous and inspiring Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the sincerest congratulations of the Princes of India on these glorious victories, and reiterates the firm determination of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India to continue to render every possible assistance towards the achievement of final victory and for the defence of their Motherland and the vindication of high principles of justice and sanctity of treaties."

**His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal:** I rise to support the Resolution so inspiringly moved by His Highness the Chancellor.

I have one theme today, and only one, and that is to urge that there should be no easing of our efforts to help to win the War. The almost unbroken series of successes which has crowned the allied arms since the beginning of this year may be too dearly bought if it lulls us into a premature sense of security and blunts the edge of our endeavours. The President of the United States has warned us in language that should remove all facile optimism that our hardest and bloodiest battles lie before, and not behind us, and that warning has been echoed from more than one other quarter. If this war is to be won,—that it be lost would be unthinkable disaster—it is now more than ever necessary to call up our remaining reserves of strength, to mobilise

to the uttermost the resources at our command and throw them wholeheartedly into the fight against the forces of an enemy, still immensely powerful but now faced with grim premonitions of defeat, and the knowledge that he cannot win.

So far as we are concerned, Your Highnesses, I am sure that we need no urging to renewed effort. How many of us can honestly lay our hands upon our hearts and say that never in the history of our dealings with the Paramount Power have we had to complain of the treatment meted out to us? and yet, why is it that the moment a mortal danger has threatened the British Commonwealth of Nations, the Princes of India have forgotten past grievances ignored all causes of complaint they may have had, and have risen as one man to place their entire resources at the disposal of the Crown?

Let me try to find Your Highnesses the answer by repeating to you a story which was recently told to me. It is a true story, though it happens to be an old one.

A number of Persian merchants journeying to Teheran had camped for the night by the wayside. In discussing by the camp-fire, events then current, one of them happened to say "If Turkey is defeated, it will be the end of Courage in the world". To that another replied, "But if the Germans are defeated, it will be the end of Science in the World". After a pause, a third added, "But if the British are defeated, it will be the end of Justice in the world". The final comment of the grey-bearded leader of the caravan was this: "God will not then allow the British to be defeated" Your Highnesses, I am prepared to endorse that belief from the bottom of my heart, and surely it holds the key to the loyalty which the Crown has inspired in the Princes of India.

There are times in the history, of Governments, of Nations, and of individuals, when unless first things are placed first, inevitable disaster must be their portion. If in placing first thing first, we keep in the back-ground for the moment, our ordinary complaints and differences and our fears as to what may be in store for us in the future. We do so, it seems to me, for two reasons. Firstly we believe that a correct sense of perspective demands that when the fate of nations and of peoples is swaying in the balance, and when we are supporting a great and just Cause against its mortal enemies, domestic differences and disputes, unless they are fundamental in character, should remain for settlement until the clouds of war have lifted. It is neither wise nor expedient to indulge in action likely to exacerbate feelings and impair wholehearted comradeship in the face of the enemy. Secondly, we do so because our faith in the ultimate Justice of the British Nation stands where it always stood. We are confident that an appeal to the conscience of the British people in the final resort will never fail.

Your Highnesses, we regard His Majesty as the embodiment of that conscience and the measure of our loyalty to him, is the measure of our reverence for Justice—the greatest and most desirable thing on Earth.

Your Highnesses must have noted with pride and satisfaction the news released a few days ago that Indian States Troops were taking their share of the stern fighting on Italian soil. It is in these days our proud privilege to help to hold aloft the torch of civilisation. We are prepared to pay for this honour whatever the cost may be and it shall not be said of us that we have regard only to our rights and not to our duties.

His Excellency who for so long has guided and governed the affairs of this country, and presided over the deliberations of this Chamber is very shortly to leave us. He has indeed earned rest and relaxation, for, there are very few who have been called upon to bear so grievous a burden of responsibility, so relentless a strain without break or remission for so long a space of time. We wish him a safe return to his native land, and our best wishes will follow him. Your Highnesses, I am sure, will wish specifically to include in these good wishes Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow, whose work in initiating a

campaign against one of the most dreadful scourges this country is subject to, will be a lasting monument to her public activities.

In conclusion, I should ask His Excellency to carry a message from us to the people of Britain. I would say:

We know that you have come into this dreadful struggle to serve no private purpose, to gain no selfish ends. You have drawn your sword to destroy the forces of aggression and to win a lasting peace for the World. You have staked your national existence in order that Justice and fair dealing between man and man may prevail among the peoples of this world, and that the sanctity of treaties and engagements may be maintained. In this struggle for this noble cause, the Princes of India and their peoples are with you heart and soul unto the end. You can rely on them, you can place your implicit trust in them. They have given you their word and they mean to stand by you to the end. They will not let you down as has already been proved during the darkest days of this struggle. They on their part have implicit faith in you that you will never let them down.

I now second the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor

**His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; It is with great pleasure that I rise to support the resolution so eloquently moved by His Highness the Chancellor and so ably seconded by His Highness of Bhopal.

Much has happened since this Chamber last met 18 months ago, and at this cross-road of the destiny of the world it is with feelings of profound thankfulness and relief that we witness today such a remarkable transformation in the war situation. At this time last year the enemy stood menacing the Empire in every quarter of the globe—on sea, air and land. Today it is Germany that is being besieged, it is her towns that are being bombed, and it is she and her Allies who are on the defence

Her chief partner in Europe, after the crushing blows the Allies inflicted on her, has capitulated unconditionally and the Fascist regime is no more. Mussolini, who had hoped for cheap glory, is now reduced to the position of a Quisling—a poor relative living on charity. The Italian Navy or what is left of it is in Allied hands and under British control. The Badoglio government has even declared war on its former ally—a certain sign of how even those who had been previously impressed by Nazi victories are coming to see clearly their impending doom.

As for Japan, she is being slowly but steadily pushed back from the Islands of the Pacific which she had occupied and the might of the United Nations concentrated in India stands ready to join battle with the forces of Nippon in territories which she wrested not long ago.

This marvellous change in the situation of the War has not come about by any mere stroke of luck but by the most farsighted organisation, the most courageous and inspiring leadership and the most dauntless perseverance in the face of every conceivable obstacle.

It is a matter of intense pride to us that in all these India should have put forth such a magnificent and outstanding effort.

In the far flung battlefields outside Russia, Indian Troops, including Troops from the Indian States, have played a most notable and gallant part side by side with their comrades in arms from the United Kingdom and other allied States. The small but growing Indian Navy has also won its laurels not only in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal but as far away as the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

I am only too well aware that the road to victory is still long and dreary and that the hardest battles are yet to be fought. But the final outcome is happily no longer a matter of doubt even for the worst pessimists. Through the mercy of Providence it can now confidently be asserted that victory is not only assured but will be ours at no great distance of time, spelling the utter frustration of all Hitler's dreams to dominate the world.

It is probable that the end may come earlier than most of us expect. But whether it comes sooner or later, true as ever to the traditions of loyalty and devotion to His Imperial Majesty, the Princes of India are determined to do everything they can to further the war effort and to give every possible assistance to achieve lasting and final victory and render whatever service that lies in their power to their beloved King-Emperor.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas** (Senior Branch): Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I give my warmest support to the resolution so forcefully moved by our soldier Prince, H. H. the Chancellor. I do feel that this resolution is not only meant merely to record our joy at the recent victories won by the United Nations, not merely to record the loyal contributions in men, material and money made by the Princely Order of India towards the successful prosecution of the war, but it is to emphasise that we the Rulers of Indian States fully realise and appreciate the dangers that did confront us and may confront us and to reiterate that we shall continue to unitedly and individually to help the great cause for which the Allies stand with all the resources at our disposal, coupled with our unswerving loyalty to the person and throne of our beloved King Emperor and thus help to destroy the evil forces that have proved so dangerous to the peace of the world and to the very existence of Nations and States which are smaller and weaker than the aggressive hordes. Those of us who have seen active service in any of the theatres of the present war or those of us who have had opportunities of personally seeing the conditions prevailing in any country which was even in temporary occupation of our enemy, those of us who have seen or heard about the woeful conditions prevailing in the countries occupied by those destroyers of civilisation and their ruthless strangling of the very individuality of the smaller States either in Europe or in the Far East would not fail to realise that our sincere war efforts are in reality directed not only towards our own self preservation but also towards the preservation of all that civilisation stands for. The recent successes attending our Allied arms no doubt augur well for the early destruction of the only remaining arch-enemy of ours in Europe—Hitler's Germany. Hitler's subtle partner Mussolini and his dreams have been dashed to pieces and liquidated. Hitler himself is fast going down and is making his last efforts to pull himself out as a living force. God willing his fate and that of his followers shall not be different from that which has befallen Mussolini. That day is not now far distant. We realise that the elimination of these evil forces of Europe would only mean a partial relief to us here. To this day the worst sufferers from these two tyrants have been the smaller and weaker States of Europe and Africa. We have to marshall all our resources and knit ourselves as a solid entity in order to raise a steel wall not only against these our enemies in Europe but also against the other abject aggressor of the Far East. The fate of the Shan States, of Siam, of Indo-China and the colonial possessions in the Far East not only of the United Kingdom but also of the other European Nations must act as an eye-opener to us. If we are not to be threatened with a similar fate by the Willy Japs, we have to take time by the forelock and multiply our war efforts ten-fold if not hundred-fold to keep this yellow danger away from our mother land. We are proud of the glorious achievements in Africa of the Indian Army. The biggest volunteer Army in the world today. I am equally confident that they will again acquit themselves as creditably as in the past in storming Hitler's European Fortress. The proud record of the famous 4th Indian Division shall remain a permanent land mark in the annals of Indian Military History. Of their record of achievements I am particularly proud because it has been my unique privilege to have seen field service in the front line as an officer of this very division in Libya with the second battalion of that famous regiment "The 5th Maratha Light Infantry". As a Ruler of an Indian State I am indeed very proud of the magnificent record of the Indian States Forces on active service on various War Fronts. I have not the slightest doubt that this glorious record will further be enriched by still more laurels won by the Indian Army in general and the Indian States Forces in particular in crushing the biggest enemy of India—Japan.

The last time I was present at the session of the Chamber of Princes in the year 1941 the Nazi and the Fascist powers were acclaiming to the world their victorious advances while the Allies were with determination offering stiff resistance, when the Chamber met in 1942 the situation appeared to be not very much brighter but today those dark clouds have fast receded towards the horizon and God willing by the time we meet in the next session complete victory will have been won by the United Nations and the forces which intended to destroy civilisation will have been completely annihilated.

Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, with these words I give my whole-hearted support once again to this resolution.

**His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: We are passing a resolution now to record the gratification and pride of this Chamber and the Indian States at large on the recent victories of the Allied Nations. When war began in 1939, the Indian Princes pledged their all to the common cause as they knew it was just and in the dark days of 1940 the spark of hope burnt brightly in their hearts because they knew that the forces of evil which at that time were on the upward move would be finally destroyed. This hope has now come to be more fruitful and that spark has burnt itself into a bonfire, which from the conquered territories in Tunisia, in Sicily and in Italy comes as a beacon to the struggling millions of Europe and brings them hope of victory and liberation from under the heel of the tyrant which is placed on them today. Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, the Indian Army in this great struggle has proved itself worthy of the laurels that have been bestowed upon it and with a strength of two millions strong—a body, which today has assembled and voluntarily assembled, in this great land of ours—they fight in the front line and cover themselves with glory. Our honour is in their hands today, and upholding the proud traditions of this martial country thousands of miles away from their homes, they give their blood so that we may survive. No greater honour to the Princes and the people of India could there be; how proud we feel of their sacrifices and also of the pledge that once victory has been won, their sacrifices would not have been in vain? The land of the five rivers, to which I have the honour to belong, that natural cradle of heroic men deserves special mention in this little contribution which Your Excellency and Your Highnesses have authorised me to make in today's proceedings. Thousands of homes in the Punjab today are proud that their sons are fighting and thereby upholding the traditions which have always endeared them to us all. They fight for liberty and justice and their recent victories away from home are a great prelude to the bigger things that are to come. Let us therefore pledge them our full support and in pledging it let us make a further pledge that we, the Rulers and Princes of India, will whole-heartedly support the cause of justice till final victory has been achieved.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this resolution be approved? Carried unanimously.

**His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It affords me great pleasure to propose a vote of thanks to His Highness the Chancellor for the service he has rendered to the Empire, this country, and the Princely Order as a representative of India on the Imperial War Cabinet and the Pacific War Council.

At the informal meeting of the Standing Committee held in July, 1942, while congratulating His Highness on his well-deserved appointment, we had expressed our confident hope that His Highness' association with the Imperial War Cabinet and the Pacific War Council would assist towards the objectives of closer collaboration between the Allied Nations for the successful termination of the War and for the constitutional advancement of India with due regard to the interests of the States. We all know how earnest and unwearying had been His Highness' effort towards the attainment of these objectives and it is a matter of sincere gratification for all of us that his contribution in that direction has been freely acknowledged both here and in England. His Highness the Chancellor's modesty would not permit him to give publicity to the messages of appreciation

of his work in England as a member of the Imperial War Cabinet from those who were most competent to speak. I trust, however, that this Chamber is entitled to know, inspite of His Highness' sense of modesty, that these messages included a gracious message from His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor and another message from the Prime Minister of England.

A worthy heir to the traditions of the House of Nawanagar—a House well-known for its sportsmanship, military attainments and personal charm, His Highness has attained a stature, mental and political, which others should try to emulate. His election and re-election as the accredited leader of the Princely India and the widely-shared keen desire on the part of his brother Princes, that he should continue further at the helm of our affairs—a desire which has been thwarted by his own resolve not to continue in office—are an index to the implicit confidence which the Ruling Princes repose in his leadership. A soldier statesman with active service at several fronts to his credit, a sagacious and benevolent Ruler, a devoted friend of the Crown, His Highness was eminently fit to represent on the Imperial War Cabinet, those who firmly believe that as a willing and equal member of the Commonwealth of Nations only can India find full self-expression, politically and economically. He is, indeed, richly endowed to speak on behalf of the Princes of India who have spontaneously and whole-heartedly flung their resources on the side of the British Empire in this conflict between the spirit of forces and the forces of the spirit and who are united in their resolve to fulfil the Empire poet's prophesy.

So long as the Blood endures,  
I shall know that your good is mine; ye shall feel that my strength  
is yours;

In the day of Armageddon, at the last great fight of all  
That Our houses stand together and the pillars do not fall.

Those of us who have seen His Highness at work as our Chancellor, know full well what sound wisdom, vast experience and robust common-sense he brings to bear on the deliberations in which he partakes. He leaves an indelible imprint of his great industry and firm determination on every task that is entrusted to him. During his trip to England, not only he made substantial contribution to the important deliberations in which he participated, but also made use of the occasion to establish valuable contacts and to enlighten the people of Britain about the Indian Princes. With his indefatigable zeal he made extensive tours to acquaint himself fully with the war organization of England and proved a source of encouragement to the troops and those serving in war industries. When His Highness was in England, a prominent publicist friend wrote to me from there "The Maharaja Jam Saheb is making many new friends and enjoys much popularity notably among the troops by his breezy manner and his keen interest in the war effort. He is to speak to us at the East India Association on the future of India and the States. He will, no doubt, clearly tell us what is in his mind.....". This is quite an interesting study of our popular Chancellor. His breezy manner so characteristic of him, which arises from his firm convictions and considered beliefs and his enviable knack to put his mind clearly, go considerable way in making him our esteemed leader and an indomitable champion of the legitimate interests of the Princeley Order.

It is to be deeply regretted that he had to cut his trip short due to the unfortunate bereavement he suffered; however, during the period he was able to stay in England, he nobly and worthily fulfilled the duty which called him to foreign shores. We are, indeed, most happy to have you, our popular Chancellor, back in our midst after your sojourn abroad. I offer Your Highness, on behalf of the Chamber of Princes, our sincere congratulations on the measure of success achieved by you in fulfilling the important mission which took you to England.

With these words, I move the resolution which reads as follows:—

'The Chamber of Princes records a hearty vote of thanks and tenders warm congratulations to His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the

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valuable services rendered by him as representative of the States on the Imperial War Cabinet.'

**His Highness the Maharaja (Scindia) of Gwalior:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I warmly second the Resolution so ably moved by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. Indeed I consider it a privilege in being given this admirable duty of congratulating my much respected uncle on the distinguished role he had to perform in representing India on the War Cabinet in London. In this admission of India to the War Cabinet I see an earnest of the oft repeated promise on the part of His Majesty's Government to admit our beloved country to a position of absolute equality with the other self-governing dominions in the Commonwealth of Nations. India has been acknowledged as such an equal and free member of the polity of nations constituting the British Empire in its being invited on every occasion of the International League of Nations to Geneva. India had the honour of being invited to the Imperial Conferences held in the past in London. She had her status also recognised when she was asked to send two representatives to the War Cabinet and Peace Conference at the time of the last World War.

The two representatives one being an eminent statesman from British India and the other a soldier statesman to represent Indian India, Lord Sinha and His late Highness of Bikaner played an eminent part on these occasions.

In the War Cabinet that has now been formed, India was represented by my respected uncle, His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar and Sir Rama-swami Mudaliar. This arrangement gave to our representatives the opportunity of placing our country's view-point before the free assemblage of the Commonwealth in the counsel of the Empire. It also enabled them to realise how splendidly the vital morale can be kept up in the home front when there is absolute unity between the Rulers and the ruled facing such a dire emergency and a world convulsion like the one we are passing through. As far as I understand our representatives have convinced the authorities at the head of the vital need for such a unity. We all know that His Highness the Jam Saheb was given every opportunity of seeing the men and women in Great Britain all interested in winning the War and setting aside every other object that could stand in the way to victory. That some unanimity and co-operation have to be created if we want our people to be equally victory-minded.

For me to say anything about His Highness of Nawanagar would be presumptuous. I will content myself with keeping in mind only what eminent people and more particularly Your Excellency has said about him on different occasions. The services that His Highness has rendered to India and the Empire will be written in golden letters in the history of the Nations. Loyal alike to the cause of his order and to that of the British Empire he has always maintained progressive views and has tried to translate them in practice. It is his winning personality and kindness to all alike that has gone a long way to keep all the members of our order together. His association with the War Cabinet has finally established a position for the Indian States in the British Commonwealth of Nations and has over and above brought forth the view-point of the States to bear upon the world politics. In regard to his contribution to the War Cabinet I shall not attempt to pry into his doings and I am pretty sure that even if I did so he will not divulge those secrets.

Our grateful acknowledgments are therefore first due to Your Excellency for deputing His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar to represent our order at the War Cabinet. Our congratulations are next due to His Highness for fulfilling the high mission to the entire satisfaction of his colleagues, Your Excellency and the Prime Minister. As I have said before it would be an idle labour to dwell at length upon His Highness' splendid work in Europe. How patriotically he has been serving India and how he has upheld the dignity of our Order it is not necessary for me to dilate upon. Our admiration goes to him in an unbounded measure for his achievements for which we have every reason to be justly proud.

Your Excellency, I beg to commend the Resolution to the acceptance of this Chamber.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this resolution be approved? Carried unanimously.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; let me thank all, for any success that has been achieved by me is due to you. I am proud of my uncles, my brothers and my nephews in this Chamber and I hope we will continue as one great family.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: This is a non-controversial resolution intended to get over the technical procedure laid in the rules for the elections of the Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor. Rules 11 and 12, which regulate these elections, provide that the voting papers shall be opened and the result of election declared at the Chamber Session for formal ratification. This procedure would be followed in case the next Chamber Session is convened in March 1944 when the elections of the Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor are due. Technical difficulties would, however, arise if it is decided that March next being only six months off from this Session, the Chamber may meet next sometimes near October 1944 and not in March 1944. In that case two alternatives seem possible, firstly that the term of office of the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor may be extended for a few months till the next Session of the Chamber, or secondly that the elections may be held on the due date but special authority may be taken from the Chamber for the voting papers being opened and the result declared and ratified at a meeting of the Standing Committee next March, instead of at a Session of Chamber as contemplated under the Rules. I urged myself on the Standing Committee, that the normal tenure of office of the Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor should not be extended, and that the second alternative may be adopted in the event of the Chamber Session not being held next March. Accordingly, this resolution is commended for Your Highnesses' acceptance. I beg now to move the resolution—

"The Chamber of Princes recommends that in the event of its Session not being held in March, 1944, the voting papers for the next elections of the Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor be opened and the results of the elections declared for formal ratification at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Princes instead of at the Chamber Session as prescribed in Appendix A to the First Regulations of the Constitution of the Chamber."

**His Highness the Maharaja of Panna:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: We are passing through abnormal times, when it may not always be possible to strictly adhere to the letter of the Chamber Constitution, as has happened in regard to this very Session which could not be held last March as usual and takes place after a lapse of nearly 18 months.

Under the circumstances there seems no other alternative but to adopt some such procedure as pointed out by His Highness the Chancellor. For these reasons I second the resolution as proposed by His Highness the Chancellor.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it your Highnesses' pleasure that this resolution be approved? Carried unanimously.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I now rise to present a review of the work relating to the last 18 months since we met in March, 1942. The period under report witnessed ceaseless activity in respect of war effort and regarding various Committees which met from time to time. The Standing Committee had four informal and two formal meetings. The Committee of Ministers met thrice. The Sub-committees convened from time to time included the Drafting Committee, the Finance Committee, the Post-war Reconstruction Committee, the Legal Committee, the Civil List Committee and others. I take this opportunity of expressing publicly our appreciation of the valuable work done by these committees. In particular I must mention the committee of Ministers which,

under the distinguished Chairmanship of Sir V. T. Krishnamachari upheld its highest traditions of service and constructive advice. I must also mention the Study Circle which has been set up under the wise guidance of Nawab Sir Ahad Said Khan of Chhatari to examine problems regarding position of the States in the future constitutional arrangements. The preliminary examination of many important questions was entrusted to a special Committee, called the Drafting Committee, which has been set up under the Chairmanship of our veteran Minister Sir Manubhai N. Mehta and includes Nawab Aliyavar Jung, Mr. K. M. Panikkar, Sirdar D. K. Sen and Mir Maqbool Mahmood. Twenty meetings of various special Committees were held in the course of this period. The recommendations of these committees have been made available to the States in most cases and are receiving active consideration of the Standing Committee in others.

2. Solid work was done in the period under review in co-ordinating and where needed, stimulating war effort of the States. Special difficulties of certain States in respect of their war efforts or Indian States Forces or other allied matters were on more than one occasion taken up by me personally with Your Excellency and the Political Adviser. I am grateful for the advice and assistance which I invariably received.

3. Soon after the last Session of the Chamber of Princes the Lord Privy Seal visited India with the proposals of His Majesty's Government. The general attitude of the States on the constitutional problem of India was embodied in the resolution which we passed unanimously at the last Session of the Chamber. It has been made clear on behalf of the States that we are convinced that a single union of India will be the best solution of India's problems and we hope that circumstances will make it possible for the important elements in the national life of India to agree to a single union. Should this be found impossible, we could not shut our eyes to the possibility that circumstances may force a number of States to stand out of the two or more Unions, which may be set up. At the same time we associated ourselves fully with the general desire for the constitutional advance of India to the highest stature under the British Crown. It was further reiterated that any scheme to be acceptable to the States must effectively protect their rights arising from treaties, engagements and sanads or otherwise and ensure the future existence, sovereignty and autonomy of the States and leave them complete freedom duly to discharge their obligations under their treaties to the Crown and to their subjects.

5. An authoritative clarification was sought in the light of the Cripps' declaration, in respect of the position of treaties and engagements of States in the proposed future constitutional arrangements. The reply of the Crown Department based on the views of His Majesty's Government, for which we are particularly beholden to Your Excellency, has been communicated to the States and is re-assuring. Certain points relating to the position of States in all possible and alternative constitutional arrangements in India are still under examination.

6. The period under review, has recorded much useful activity in the States in the spheres of administrative reforms and beneficent activities. The question of internal reforms in the States is primarily for the individual Rulers and Governments concerned, but since defective administration in one State is likely to react on others, the question of internal reforms has been treated as one of general interest to all the States and has therefore been considered under the auspices of the Chamber of Princes and its various committees. There has been a tendency in certain quarters to represent the States as mediæval institutions, stagnant and tyrannically governed, impervious to modern ideas and unworthy of survival. We repudiate these charges on the basis of solid facts stated below. Moreover, attention may be invited to Your Excellency's remarks at a recent Session of this Chamber that in many cases, 'such attacks were entirely unjustified, attacks in which one has been unable to trace any scrupulous regard for strict accuracy or real desire to promote the welfare of the State or its people'.

7. This year all States whose Rulers are members of the Chamber of Princes have framed their Administration Reports which are being reviewed in the monthly issues of the Indian States Information Bulletin. A study of these Reports shows how the Indian Princes, almost without exception, are earnestly applying themselves to the problem of internal reforms within their States. Your Excellency, also with your special knowledge of affairs has been pleased to endorse that many Rulers have of late made earnest endeavours to improve their administrative standards, that various admirable reforms have been introduced, and that measures have in many cases been taken to ensure that all legitimate complaints on the part of State subjects receive due consideration.

8. The States have been assured that the question of constitutional changes within their territories is exclusively for the Rulers to consider. This welcome and correct elucidation of the position has made many far-sighted Rulers to further review their administrations with a view to buttress the foundations of their sacred heritage on the enduring devotion of their loyal subjects and to adapt their administrations to the fast changing environments. In order to assist the individual Rulers in this task, the question of internal reform was referred by the Standing Committee of Princes in the first instance to a special Drafting Committee whose main suggestions as endorsed by the Committee of Ministers and the Standing Committee of Princes are stated below:—

(a) There should be statutory provision guaranteeing the Rule of Law and the security and protection of person and property within the territories of the States, and the State Courts should be specifically empowered to see that these rights are scrupulously enforced. For this purpose, it is desirable and necessary that the fundamental principles of laws and legal system prevailing in the States should be analogous to those in force in British India.

(b) With due regard to local conditions, the following essential principles may be announced by the Rulers as the basis of their administration and should be strictly and scrupulously followed:—

(i) that some suitable agency or officer shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the laws and regulations in force in the States conform to the requirements of changing circumstances;

(ii) that the administration of justice should vest in a competent and trained judiciary, independent of the executive, and that the Ruler or his Ministers should not interfere in the administration of the judiciary except in respect of the exercise of the prerogative of mercy. Moreover, suitable machinery should be provided for the adjudication of disputes between individuals and the State;

(iii) that there should be a Council form of Government which means that ordinarily the Ruler, will be assisted by a council consisting of Ministers and others appointed to the Council. The Council would have defined powers and their recommendations would receive the fullest consideration of the Ruler subject to his right of final veto;

(iv) that there should be continuity of policy, and security of public services;

(v) that there should be a clear demarcation between State expenditure and the personal expenditure of the Ruler, and the Civil List of the Ruler should not exceed a certain fixed percentage of the ordinary revenues of the State;

(vi) that it should be the duty of the Governments of the States to see that as large a portion as possible of the resources of the State is utilised for the benefit of the people particularly in the beneficent departments;

(vii) that the incidence of taxation should be fair and equitable and that in particular the rates of land revenue and cesses should not ordinarily be higher than those obtaining in the adjoining British Indian Provinces.

(c) It is essential in the interests of the States that there should be increasing association of their people with the governance of the States through suitable representative institutions, the exact form, pace, and stages of such association being conditioned by local circumstances. This recommendation does

not postulate institutions wherein representation is mainly based on numbers. It is accordingly suggested that in framing the constitution of a State, the composite character of the society and the main elements of the life of the State should be kept specially in view.

9. The Standing Committee of Princes, the Committee of Ministers and the Drafting Committee unanimously recorded the fact that the aforesaid suggestions were already in force in many States and they recommended that individual Rulers and Governments of States which had not done so already may review their administrations with a view to implement these recommendations, where needed in the light of local conditions. I am glad to be able to announce, on the basis of replies received from the States, that practically all the States whose Rulers are members of the Chamber of Princes have reviewed their administrations in the light of these recommendations, and that in most cases these recommendations were already in force, and in others majority of these recommendations have been implemented, others are receiving consideration in the light of local conditions and circumstances.

10. Your Excellency, we do not claim perfection for all the States administrations; at the same time the actual state of affairs based on authentic information will show to all fair-minded persons that the Indian States are not anachronisms in the conception of a progressive world and that their administrations are based on a rule of law associated with growing beneficent activities.

11. During the period under review, the policy of the Chamber of Princes in regard to publicity has also been reviewed. The main conclusion reached is that information regarding the public activities of the States may be released regularly. A Standing Committee of Publicity has been set up under the Chairmanship of Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, and various questions relating to publicity are under active consideration. Moreover, a monthly bulletin called the *Indian States Information* has been started which publishes the latest facts relating to the war effort and beneficent activities of the States.

12. 26 items were dealt with during the period under review. These included the following important items:—

- (a) Problems relating to war effort, civil defence, internal security and the economic consequences of the war.
- (b) Resolution regarding appointment of Courts of Arbitration.
- (c) Arrangements for introducing martial law in the States.
- (d) Retrocession of jurisdiction over railway lands in the territories of the States.
- (e) Post-war Reconstruction.
- (f) Food Policy of the Government of India.
- (g) Measures to combat inflation.
- (h) Form of administration for States emerging from minority management.
- (i) Joint services in the States for certain administrative purposes.
- (j) The communique dated the 16th April, 1943, under which certain residuary jurisdiction exercised by the Crown over some semi-jurisdiction or non-jurisdiction estates and talukas of Western India and Gujarat has been transferred to certain major States.
- (k) Resolution regarding appointment of Commissions of Enquiry on the conduct of a Ruler.
- (l) Question of new admissions of members to the Chamber of Princes.

The latest position reached on these items has been circulated to the States and need not be detailed here today.

13. In addition to the aforesaid record of work, every possible advice and assistance was given and all available information supplied to many States at their requests on many subjects which were referred to the Secretariat.

14. This concludes the review of the more important work accomplished during the period under review. The results achieved have been due to a large measure

to the most helpful consideration which had been my privilege to receive throughout the period from Your Excellency as our President and to the generous support which has consistently been extended to me by my colleagues of the Standing Committee.

15. For the greater part of the period under review the important office of the Political Adviser was held by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Craik whose personal charms, rare courtesy and frank advice have been of real assistance, about which the Standing Committee has recorded an expression of its gratitude. We are glad to welcome back the Hon'ble Sir Francis Wylie, who is a friend and whose fairness, quick grasp of affairs, courageous championship of our legitimate rights and earnestness to assist the States to initiate reforms where needed, have renewed the confidence of the Princes in his far-sighted sympathy and statesmanship. I wish also to record on my behalf and that of this Chamber, our grateful appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered by Sir Kenneth Fitz as the Secretary of the Chamber. I am also obliged to his Deputy Col. Burnell and the Political Department for their helpful co-operation. I wish also to reiterate my appreciation of the valuable assistance received throughout this period from our Secretariat under the able and trusted guidance of Mir Maqbool Mahmood.

**His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is not only my proud privilege but also a source of extreme pleasure to me that I have been honoured with the pleasant task of expressing on behalf of this Chamber, its sincerest gratitude for the very distinguished services rendered by His Highness the Chancellor during the past 5 years.

I am confident that not only all of us present here today, but those of us who for some reason or other have not been able to attend these deliberations, are well aware of His Highness' unique personality. He is in every respect both a soldier Prince and an astute statesman with a most charming and captivating personality, which has at all times given so much confidence to those who have had the pleasure of coming into contact with him, and of enjoying His Highness' friendship. It is due to these very remarkable qualities that he has won the hearts of us all. With such great qualities of head and heart, and the desire to see fair play and justice, coupled with the urge to go to any extreme to see the right thing done, His Highness has at all times given us so much confidence and satisfaction. It has indeed been a great pleasure to have had His Highness as our leader and a constant champion of our interests. The satisfactory solutions of mighty problems having been so ably dealt with are a sufficient proof, if proof be necessary, to the untiring efforts and most earnest endeavours that His Highness has made towards bettering the alround position of our Order. Never has an occasion arisen when he has not extended his wise counsels and utilized most tactful and judicious methods in overcoming such difficulties that have had to be faced with. No one is ignorant of the fact that the duties of our Chancellor are such, that so often he has to deal with affairs which are far from being pleasant, yet His Highness the Chancellor has, with his amiable personality and well applied tact, done so much towards protecting and safeguarding the general interests of our Order.

His Highness has always kept before him the great ideal, that the old time honoured tradition of loyalty to the person and crown of His Imperial Majesty should be even more strengthened at this juncture when the world is passing through a phase of such unprecedented state of chaos and confusion, bringing the ravages of tyranny and destruction to almost every country in it.

It is indeed very encouraging to us all, to realise that His Excellency the Crown Representative while delivering his inaugural speech yesterday was kind enough to give most suitable expression of his appreciation of the very signal services rendered by His Highness our Chancellor. This within itself is sufficient testimony of the excellent work done by him.

I will venture even to go further, in saying that the major portion of the period His Highness has held office as our Chancellor, rather strangely coinciding with the duration of the war so far, is in itself significant that His Highness has held this most exalted yet difficult office at a time which has been

far from normal, and, must have necessitated a great strain on His Highness' time and health. It must also be appreciated that in spite of the fact that His Highness' august and much respected predecessors did so much for our Order, yet His Highness the Jam Saheb Bahadur has been called upon at a very difficult moment to lead the destinies of our Princely Order, and therefore the more, our hearts full of gratitude go out to him, for indeed he can well claim to having been a successful Chancellor.

Much though I wish not to lengthen my speech and even though His Excellency the Crown Representative has so very kindly given such well merited expression to the very creditable work done by His Highness, I feel that I may be permitted to place before your Highnesses some of the important activities undertaken by our Chancellor. These fall into two categories, the first His Highness' most useful work as our Chancellor in this country our mother land, and the second the most valuable work done by him during his visits to the various war fronts and then His Highness' participation in the Imperial War Cabinet at London. I will therefore first proceed with those problems which His Highness the Chancellor has attended to in this country. These problems have been innumerable, but I shall only quote a few.

A drastic reorganization of this Chamber was effected including its enlargement with the admission of new members in their own rights, a problem which had been pending for a considerable time.

The war efforts of the States was very much stimulated in a variety of ways, and many difficulties being experienced by the States were removed, and, an understanding was arrived at so as to protect the States against subversive articles and revolutionary movements started in British India.

The success of all these problems was due to the untiring efforts and the most tactful statesmanlike approach made by His Highness to the authorities concerned.

Also during the very historical occasion when Sir Stafford Cripps was paying a visit to this country His Highness the Chancellor took the opportunity to discuss at length mighty problems connected with our Order.

I will now take up as I have mentioned above the second portion of His Highness' activities during the period of his Chancellorship.

When the question of the desirability of forming an Imperial War Cabinet in London arose, His Highness made a very strong representation for the kind consideration of His Majesty's Government in India, that some one from our Order should be included in it. Eventually when the Imperial War Cabinet came into being, His Highness was invited by His Majesty's Government to participate in it as a representative of this Chamber. The knowledge of this was indeed a very great pleasure to us all for what better selection could possibly have been made than of His Highness the Chancellor of this Chamber?

I need hardly make any reference at length to the most interesting and undoubtedly very tiring journey which His Highness had to undertake to arrive at his destination and about which Your Highnesses have already heard the other day from His Highness the Chancellor's own lips. I will therefore pass on to the great task taken up by him immediately after His Highness' arrival in London. I must confess that all the references that have been made in a resolution so ably moved by my Bhai His Highness Maharaja Dhiraja Bahadur of Patiala only a little while back, and seconded so suitably by His Highness the Maharaja Scindia Bahadur of Gwalior leaves so very little for me to add.

I am sure we are all very satisfied in the realisation that His Highness the Jam Saheb's activities as a member of such an august and distinguished body presided over by no less a personality than the most honourable Mr. Winston Churchill, England's most popular and distinguished Prime Minister have been of most outstanding merit. His Highness' very presence in England

and his visits to so many Industrial centres and his attendance at many important functions where occasions arose for making speeches or talking to those with whom he came into contact, has not only achieved the object of bringing to the notice of the people of England the stupendous war efforts that India has made and is striving hard to even extend further towards the final accomplishment of peace, but has also been of very considerable value towards the interest of our order. Two days ago we all listened with immense interest to the brief account which His Highness gave us, it was an all too modest account of his own activities. His Highness's impressions of wartime Britain and particularly his tribute to the women of England and to that giant amongst statesmen, the present Prime Minister of England the most honourable Mr. Winston Churchill, are so much encouraging and even though His Highness said nothing of his war services in the Cabinet, we know from many sources how greatly these have been valued by his colleagues. We know also from his speeches delivered at factories and other places up and down the length of England how well and worthily he laboured not only as a great Indian Prince himself, but a worthy representative of his Order.

And it is indeed so gratifying to note that His Majesty's Government has so suitably extended its approbation and has so much appreciated His Highness' earnest endeavours. The very knowledge of this gives us all extreme satisfaction, and also the fact that all that His Highness did at so much personal inconvenience and sacrifice was not in vain.

It is also a source of great pleasure to us to know that His Highness the Jam Saheb when visiting the various theatres of war in the middle east had occasions to meet many of the sons of our mother land, who went with the time honoured traditions been serving with such loyalty and devotion and had shown so much valour on many an occasion. These contacts were most valuable and were consequently most encouraging to the troops visited to whom His Highness took happy tidings of their mother country. This in itself has been on exceptionally conspicuous service not only to the people of the State but to India as a whole. The success of this is chiefly due to the fact that His Highness before he ascended the Gaddi of his illustrious ancestors was actively associated with the Indian Army, and is therefore so very popular amongst the grand forces of India.

It is indeed very regrettable that His Highness has now decided to relinquish the office as Chancellor of the Chamber and I am sure that while I am voicing the feelings of all Your Highnesses here in extending our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our Chancellor, His Highness the Jam Saheb Bahadur of Nawanagar, we also earnestly hope that even though His Highness may no longer be our Chancellor yet we may continue to have the good fortune of being benefitted by his wise counsels and considerate sympathies which we have received and enjoyed in full measure in the past.

It is our sincere prayer that His Highness may enjoy a long life full of perfect health and much happiness.

Your Excellency and Your Highnesses with these very few words I beg to move this resolution, which now stands as follows:

"This Chamber unanimously desires to tender its most grateful thanks to His Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib Bahadur of Nawanagar, our very popular Chancellor, for the very distinguished services, His Highness has rendered to the Princely Order during his five years of holding the office of Chancellor of this Chamber."

**His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses. It affords me genuine pleasure to second the Resolution moved at such length, by His Highness the Nawab Ruler of Bahawalpur. I have had the privilege of working on the Standing Committee with His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar throughout the long and memorable period of his Chancellorship and I am in a position to say without hesitation that the tact, impartiality and devotion with which the Chancellor has performed his onerous and

difficult duties are deserving of the highest praise. The patience and readiness to grasp the difficulties of his brother Princes have been the characteristics of His Highness and the manner in which he has responded to the calls of duty in the service of his Order, often at great personal inconvenience and sacrifice of the business of his State, goes to show the devotion with which he has applied himself to his noble task. Every year that passes brings with it fresh and complex problems and the courage and statesmanship with which our popular Chancellor has tackled those problems are worthy of our gratitude. I would also like to add here my warm appreciation for the work so efficiently performed by the Secretary to His Highness the Chancellor and the entire Secretariat staff.

Your Highnesses, I have pleasure in commending this resolution for your acceptance.

His Highness the Raja of Mandi also spoke.

**The Raja of Khairagarh:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I have great pleasure indeed in supporting a hearty vote of thanks to His Highness the Chancellor who has so ably and indefatigably advocated the cause of the States during another strenuous year.

His Highness the Jam Saheb, as you all are aware, combines in him the best qualities of a Soldier and a Statesman and in addition, he inherits the geniality, the large heartedness and best traditions of his great and illustrious uncle and of his great house. As our Chancellor, in the most critical times in the History of Princely India, fraught with difficulties and unforeseen dangers, His Highness has faced with characteristic fortitude the situation with signal ability, courage and even risks. It is our good fortune to have in him in our midst a Prince of such outstanding capacity and wide sympathies.

It has been a pleasure to work with him and no less a pleasure to be loyal to him. It has in every way been a privilege to have him as our leader. Towards the smaller States, which I have the honour to represent on the Standing Committee, he has always been most helpful and sympathetic and his Chancellorship will always remain enshrined in our hearts as it constitutes a glorious chapter in the collective history of the States.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Is it your Highnesses' pleasure that this Resolution be approved? Carried unanimously.

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I am most grateful to you for your kind and generous reference to my work as Chancellor. It is an open secret that the utility of this Chamber and of the Standing Committee depends mainly on the personal equation between H. E. the President and the Chancellor. It has been my good fortune that throughout the 5½ years that I have held the office of Chancellor, I had to deal with Your Excellency as the President of this Chamber. Now that Your Excellency and myself would soon be relinquishing our respective offices of the President and the Chancellor of this Chamber, I can state, as I must state, that you have been a most constitutional President, who has always striven to utilise the Chancellor and the Standing Committee, in accordance with the gracious message of His Imperial Majesty at the inauguration of this Chamber, as the constitutional machinery whose opinion is to be sought on problems of general interest to the States. Moreover, you have throughout helped me with your advice, honoured me with your friendship and encouraged me with your confidence. Thereby, Your Excellency has set a tradition of teamwork which is of the greatest value to the Crown as well as the States, and is mainly responsible for what little I have been able to achieve as Chancellor. For this kindness and consideration and guidance, I owe to Your Excellency, which I now offer, a public acknowledgment of gratitude, on my behalf and that of this Chamber. Your Excellency, it is equally impossible for a Chancellor to function without the whole-hearted and active support of the Princes. This has been given to me generously and without reserve by my brother Princes; and when I think of the strain and stress.

which the work of the Chancellorship has involved, the friendship that I have been able to make have been my greatest reward.

2. Your Excellency, Your Highnesses I thank you once again.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** I understand that it would be convenient for Your Highnesses now to adjourn for lunch, as it is now 20 minutes past one, I think we had better fore gather at 2-30 p.m., if that would be quite convenient. Adjourned till 2-30 p.m.

(The Chamber adjourned for luncheon.)

**Proceedings of the Second day (afternoon), 15th October 1943.**

**His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:** Your Excellency; We are glad to have this opportunity of meeting you before you lay down your Exalted Office, and we desire to express our gratitude for the courtesy with which you have listened to us and presided over our deliberations for six Sessions of this Chamber.

2. We are grateful to Providence that since we last met the phase of the war has changed in a manner that even the most optimistic of us could hardly have hoped for. Your Excellency has been pleased to refer in your Address to "the magnificent response consistently made by the Indian States to the urgent needs of this critical time". We are glad to get Your Excellency's testimony to the fact, of which we have always felt assured, that the response of the States in the war effort has continued to be worthy of their best traditions, and that their contributions cover every phase of the war effort and embrace every form of service. We are proud to feel that through the darkest phases of the present war, the Princes of India stood solid by their obligations to the Crown and in support of the world cause at stake. Your Excellency should need no assurance that in the defence of our Motherland and in response to the stirring appeal of His Majesty and clarion calls of the Commonwealth the Indian States will maintain and, where needed, augment the support which they have given freely and spontaneously.

3. We are profoundly grieved over the sad and untimely demise of the Maharajkumars of Sangli and Mayurbhanj in the course of their duties as officers of the Indian Air Force. We would request Your Excellency to offer to the Raja Saheb of Sangli and the Maharaja Sahib of Mayurbhanj on behalf of this Chamber, the sincerest expression of its deepest sympathy.

4. We are gratified to know that the Indian States Forces have taken full advantage of the opportunities that have come to them to win fresh laurels and marks of distinction on the battle-field. We are proud of them and of their magnificent achievements. We would request Your Excellency kindly to convey to them the message that we are anxiously following their deeds and are proud of their notable record. Please also assure them that their interests and those of their families are a sacred trust which we are pledged to look after.

5. Your Excellency has been pleased to express your gratitude for the manner in which the States as a whole had adopted the scheme devised to raise the standard of efficiency among the higher ranks of their Forces. We are glad that Your Excellency realises and appreciates the difficulties that have on occasions confronted us in these and other connected matters. These difficulties, we need hardly tell Your Excellency, have at times been very great indeed, but our traditions and relationship with the Crown forbid us from raising matters which may be inconvenient during the pendency of the war. At the same time, it would enhance the value of co-operation of Indian States Forces if the status of our officers *vis-a-vis* the officers of the Indian Army with whom they may be called upon to serve is clearly and satisfactorily defined. Your Excellency has also referred to the new schemes, for the exchange of officers and for providing advanced training for State units, which are shortly to be placed before the States; we shall give them the fullest consideration in the light of our circumstances.

6. Your Excellency has referred to the substantial contribution of the Indian States towards the prosecution of the war, by not objecting to the additional financial burden which has recently been imposed on them and their subjects in the form of surcharges for revenue purposes on the normal rates for the transmission of letters and telegrams. Your Excellency has rightly pointed out that it is only fair to the States which have entered as the vast majority of them have done, into postal unity with British India, that no liability should be imposed on them in the form of such surcharges which are intended to make a contribution to the general revenues of British India. We are glad that the principle underlying the claim of the States in this matter has been recognised, and though they are advised that it is not difficult to compute the financial value of their share in the revenue derived from those surcharges, they have willingly agreed that their share in such revenues may be treated as a contribution by the Indian States towards the prosecution of the war.

7. Your Excellency has also mentioned the uniform and wholehearted co-operation of the States in regard to the grim problems of the war which have been distressingly prominent during the current year—food, cloth and inflation. We are gravely concerned over the distress caused by the food situation in Travancore, Cochin, Bengal and other areas and by the havoc caused by the recent floods in certain States of Rajputana. The Chancellor has already issued a circular appeal and many of the States have as a token of their genuine sympathy already responded through substantial contributions in cash or kind for the relief of the affected areas. We are glad to receive Your Excellency's testimony based on personal observation of the splendid efforts made by the Governments of the States concerned and the patience and fortitude of the States population so sorely tried.

8. Your Excellency, it is a matter of satisfaction to us that in spite of the recent food and transport difficulties, the Governments of the Indian States generally have been able to manage well the problem of food supplies to their people and have succeeded, at great sacrifice to themselves, in controlling prices of foodgrains within their territories at a much lower level than in the adjoining areas of British India. We have in this connection invited attention to certain facts with a view to enhance the value of the co-operation of the States with the Food Policy of the Government of India. We commend them to the quarters concerned for their earliest consideration.

Your Excellency may rest assured that the States will continue to lend their fullest support to the 'Grow more food campaign', and where possible augment it.

9. We fully endorse Your Excellency's view that inflation is one of the gravest problems facing us in the handling of which the States and British India are equally concerned. It is indeed a question which must be resolutely tackled. I am glad to be able to assure Your Excellency that the States are fully alive to the dangers of inflation as a grave national peril, and are prepared to co-operate in anti-inflationary measures to the utmost extent permissible within their individual peculiar circumstances and industrial commitments. It must however be appreciated, that having regard to the varying conditions of the fiscal arrangements of the States and their relative backwardness in industrial development, the measure and form of their co-operation in the matter must vary according to the circumstances and conditions of individual States. At the same time the States are entitled to claim that they must be consulted before the formulation and in the execution of such policies, affecting British India and the States in which their co-operation is desired, and that there should be no discrimination against the States in the implementing of these policies.

10. We feel constrained to bring it to Your Excellency's notice that the States have been seriously perturbed over the recent tendency of the Industrial policy of the Government of India so far as it affects. In view of the aforesaid apprehensions of the States, we welcome particularly Your Excellency's timely

and unequivocal assurance that "such checks and prohibitions as it has been necessary to apply are based solely upon the present overriding need to conserve and regulate the resources of the country as a whole, so that the output of essential supplies should not be curtailed or disturbed for the benefit of local or personal interests. There is not, and there cannot be, any question of their being designed to stifle the birth, or the progress of industrial development in the Indian States". In the light of this assurance, we share Your Excellency's hope that valuable results may ensue from the discussions already held, and which are proposed to be held shortly, on this subject. The manner in which the factories in the States have been turned to supply war requirements, to which Your Excellency has made a reference in your Address, is a complete vindication of the policy underlying your aforesaid assurance.

11. The Standing Committee of Princes and the Committee of Ministers have given earnest consideration to the proposals desired to combat inflation which have recently been circulated to States by the Government of India. The unanimous recommendations of these Committees, which are intended to assure the fullest possible co-operation of the States, have been circulated so that individual States may review them in the light of their local circumstances and take suitable action as early as possible. At the same time, our deliberations have led us to the conclusion which we commend for the consideration of the quarters concerned in a helpful and friendly spirit, that the problem of inflation should not be treated exclusively as one relating to currency, and that measures for checking inflation cannot succeed unless effective steps are taken to increase the volume of consumers' goods and to control prices on a much wider scope than hitherto. For this purpose, we have recommended that—

(i) The States may be assisted in obtaining stores, plant and machinery under Lease-Lend or otherwise.

(ii) The States may be supplied their requirements of iron and steel for agricultural implements and machinery to assist the 'Grow more Food' campaign.

(iii) The Government of India may consider the desirability of obtaining necessary quantities of silver and copper under Lease-Lend arrangements to increase the issue of metallic currency, and the States which have their own metallic currency may similarly be assisted in this matter. This step is expected to go a long way in preventing the hoarding of foodgrains in the country.

12. Your Excellency, we appreciate fully the importance of postwar reconstruction and development, and steps have already been taken by individual States as well as by the Chamber of Princes to expedite the necessary spade-work and the collection of requisite data. We are, therefore, glad to learn from Your Excellency that the plans of the Central Government for dealing with this problem are already well advanced, and that they contain full provision for associating the States with its numerous ramifications. We trust that our representatives will be fully associated with the formulation and the implementing of postwar plans as also with the execution of policies such as those relating to Lease-Lend, control of capital issue, and trade and currency.

13. One of the most important, if not the most important, item of postwar development is the proposed system of air-transport in India. We have no doubt that the Indian States would desire to co-operate fully in the preparation of co-ordinated air transport plans, which may be designed in the best interests of India and with due regard to the rights and interests of the States. It will be appreciated, however, that it is impossible for the States to make any useful suggestions unless the Government of India take them in the fullest confidence in respect of their national and international commitments, commercial or otherwise, relating to air-navigation in India. Moreover, it is necessary that the States should be associated in the framing and the implementing of policies and plans relating to the proposed air-transport system in India, including in particular the proposed plans regarding routes, control, monopolies, commercial concessions, and other matters connected therewith, so that a fully co-ordinated and efficient system of air transport is evolved which will be of vital interest to the

States no less than to India as a whole. It is understood that the fiscal, economic, jurisdictional and other rights of the States involved in these plans would be protected in consultation with the States.

14. We share Your Excellency's pride at the response of the States, within fifteen months in organising the National War Front. This movement does contain tremendous potentialities for establishing means by which the good in man and in life may be more widely known and the things that are evil challenged and destroyed.

15. We are glad to note Your Excellency's appreciation which we wholeheartedly endorse, of the generosity shown by so many of the Indian Princes, and in particular the notable instances of the Kolhapur State—under the inspiration of Her Highness the Maharani Regent Saheba—and that of His Highness the Chancellor, in establishing temporary refuge in India for a great number of Polish children. We are proud of the fact that in accordance with the highest traditions of the Indian States, their contributions towards the charitable, cultural and other institutions have recognised no limitations of frontiers, nationalities or creeds. The figures already collected, which are not yet complete, show that since 1877 about 11½ crores non-recurring, and 40 lacs (annual) and 1½ lacs (monthly) recurring have been contributed by the Indian States towards such beneficent activities outside their own territories.

16. We share Your Excellency's view that the importance of anti-tuberculosis campaign and the utility of All-India Cattle Show Society cannot be over-estimated in the special conditions of this country. The fight against tuberculosis and the struggle to improve India's cattle are vital to improve the condition of the peasant and the country side, and the most valuable contribution of Your Excellency and Her Excellency in these vital spheres will always be remembered with gratitude. Your Excellencies may rest assured that these activities will continue to receive the fullest degree of our friendly co-operation.

17. Your Excellency has been pleased to refer to the suggestion made to you that the immense aggregate importance of the States as an element in the Indian continent, and their vital concern in the solution of Indian problems have not always been fully appreciated. We regret to have to say that this suggestion does not appear to be unfounded. On the other hand, there is a growing and grave apprehension that notwithstanding Your Excellency's personal goodwill and desire to help the States, the rights and interests of the Indian Princes were not receiving the consideration to which they were entitled. We hope and trust that no reasonable justification would be allowed to exist for such an impression, particularly at a time when the Indian States were doing splendid war effort. In view of these grave apprehensions, it is felt that Your Excellency's successor would be rendering a real service to the Crown as also to the States, if at his early convenience, he were to invite the representatives of the States, as was done by Your Excellency and your predecessors, for a free and frank consultation on the few outstanding questions and the ways and means to remove these prevailing apprehensions.

18. Your Excellency has referred to the great developments of recent times, profound changes, new forces, new ideas, a new attitude of mind in the international field, which have recently taken place. We are fully cognisant of the fast changing times, and have already taken suitable steps, and are prepared to implement them, with a view to adapt our administrations to the changing environments. At the same time, the statement "that the Crown's obligations to protect carry with them equally binding responsibilities to ensure that what is protected continue to be worthy of protection" raises vital problems and new issues of far reaching and grave importance which will receive our earnest consideration.

19. It has been a relief to the Indian Princes to be assured, through Your Excellency's good offices, "that the fulfilment of the fundamental obligations arising out of their treaties and sanads remain an integral part of His Majesty's

Government's policy". We earnestly desire that this policy may be implemented to our satisfaction, through an effective machinery which could be depended upon in the fast changing circumstances of India. To this end, would strongly urge that the disputes arising between the Government of India or a Provincial Government and any Indian State, or between two or more Indian States, or where a State is dissatisfied with the ruling or advice of the Crown Representative or his local representatives should be referable as of right to a court of arbitration or to the Federal Court as may be settled in consultation with the representatives of the States.

20. Your Excellency has referred again to the necessity for the smaller States of some sort of co-operative measures to secure a standard of administrative efficiency which is beyond their individual resources. We are convinced that the object in view can be ensured with the voluntary co-operation of the Rulers concerned and without in any manner affecting the integrity of their States or the continuance of their dynasties. The recent developments in the sphere of joint services have caused serious apprehensions which have been brought to the notice of Your Excellency and your Political Adviser. We are gratified to note that Your Excellency appreciates the difficulties which arise, not so much from any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Rulers concerned as from the nature of the foundations on which they have to build. In view of these considerations, we welcome in particular Your Excellency's announcement that instructions have been given that the progress hitherto achieved and the difficulties thereby revealed shall within the next few weeks be systematically reviewed and considered by your advisers, so that thereafter, so soon as can conveniently be arranged, Your Excellency's successor may be able to initiate discussions either with the Standing Committee or with selected representatives of the category of States principally concerned, from which discussion a clear plan of action may emerge. We earnestly hope that these discussions may help to resolve the present difficulties and misgivings.

21. We have also examined the policy announced in the communique of the 16th April, 1943, under which Crown's residuary jurisdiction in the case of certain semi-jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional states and talukas in Gujarat and Kathiawar has been transferred to bigger units with special claims thereto. It is our desire not to raise any controversial issues today. We would request, however, that with Your Excellency's appreciation of our difficulties and the gravest apprehensions in the States concerned and many others, this important and difficult question may also be taken up early, as proposed in respect of co-operative grouping, by Your Excellency's successor with the Standing Committee with a view to eliminate the doubts and concern of the States.

22. The scheme of the proposed arrangement for post-minority management has also been examined by us. We appreciate that the revised memorandum on the subject is an improvement on the original proposal; at the same time we regret to note that the revised proposals have not met some of our fundamental objections. We propose to discuss the matter further at the meeting of the Standing Committee tomorrow.

23. Your Excellency has also referred to the question of definition of civil lists. We realise that the present expenditure of the Rulers has been the main target of criticism, often unjustified and irrespective of the quality and efficiency of administration. Your Excellency is aware that this question had been taken up by the Committee of Rulers *suo moto* with a view to assist such Rulers, as had not already done so, to demarcate their civil lists from administrative budgets and to settle it at a definite percentage of the ordinary revenues of the State. Our enquiries have revealed that the varying conditions of States and the great disparity in their peculiar circumstances and revenues render it impracticable to lay down any rigid formula of uniform application. At the same time, it is gratifying that almost every member of the Chamber of Princes has taken steps to demarcate his civil list from the administrative budget and has done it on a definite basis.

We assure Your Excellency that we shall give this important matter our fullest consideration, and we share Your Excellency's hope that the discussions now proceeding between representative Princes and your officers may yield solid and generally acceptable results.

24. We are gratified to learn that Your Excellency has found the advice and frank expression of views by representative Princes of real value. We ourselves fully endorse the view that having regard to the grave decisions that have to be taken by the Crown Representative, it is essential that he should be fully cognisant, before he reaches final conclusions, of the views of the Princely Order on matters directly concerning members of that Order and of considerations that weigh with them. The ways and means to attain this object may be evolved as early as possible in consultation with our representatives.

25. We are glad to learn from Your Excellency's personal observation that certain States have become an example and an inspiration to other parts of India. We share the desire that that should be the case in every area. It is essential in the interests of the States that they should not fall below certain accepted standards of efficient administration. Your Excellency is aware of the great strides in internal reforms made by the States in the recent years. We have decided at our Informal meetings to pursue these efforts. We endorse the desire that the Indian States may fit themselves to play that great and positive part in the development of India as a whole which their importance and their history justify and it is in the interest of the Princely Order that such weaknesses as may exist today, whether in administration or organisation, may be eliminated with the minimum of delay. We feel confident that God willing the Indian States shall play a part in the evolution of India which the future generations would remember with gratitude.

26. Your Excellency, we would like with your permission to refer briefly to the problem of Indians overseas in which we, no less than British India, are concerned. Indian settlers in South Africa, include a large number of subjects of Indian States. For them, our solicitude is direct. Moreover, we are all Indians, and the higher the status of an Indian the greater must be his humiliation if the status of a fellow-Indian whether he be a subject of His Majesty's Government or the subject of an Indian State, is lowered in comparison with that of any other class of His Majesty's subjects in any part of the British Commonwealth. We are vitally interested in the position of Indians overseas, and we assure Your Excellency that the efforts of your Government to improve their position have the fullest support of our Order. South Africa is now regarded as a test case. And those elements in India who like ourselves believe sincerely in the continuance of the British connection, must feel embarrassed if, in spite of India's signal services to the Commonwealth in the present war in Africa and elsewhere, the membership of the Commonwealth does not carry with it the equality of status throughout the Commonwealth of His Majesty the King Emperor.

27. Your Excellency, it is the last occasion when you will preside over our deliberations. It is our desire to avoid on this occasion any reference to matters which may appear controversial we hope to take any outstanding questions with Your Excellency's successor and the Department concerned. The time has now come for us to bid you farewell. It is sad to think that this is the last time when we shall witness the happy working of our partnership of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years in this Chamber. You have been our first Crown Representative. You have had a long innings, the longest for any Viceroy. It was also a critical period when complex problems of peace as well as of war had to be faced. Your statesmanship had to grapple with these problems, and the tact and farsight with which you succeeded in organising the war effort of India and in maintaining peace and tranquillity at a most critical period, would always deserve well of those who believe in the ordered progress of India. Your Viceregalty has been associated with some of the landmarks in the history of India. Your solid work for the health and happiness of the

cultivators who form the backbone of Indian Society has earned you a place of honour in the annals of Indian history.

28. Your tenure of office as Crown Representative has witnessed a succession of important and new policies, such as co-operative grouping, internal reforms, post-minority management, reorganisation of the Chamber, admission of the new Members, the communiqué of the 16th April, 1943. It was but natural that in the discussion of these important matters, there have been occasions when we honestly differed. Your Excellency welcomed such honest differences of opinion and thereby earned our admiration.

29. I am personally indebted to Your Excellency for the most generous kindness and support given to me as Chancellor. I have attempted to express my obligations, both as Chancellor and in my personal capacity, to Your Excellency. It is impossible to express adequately what I feel. Pray rest assured that both my wife and I shall retain the warmest memories of the most indulgent hospitality and friendship with which both Your Excellency and Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow has honoured us.

30. We must before we conclude pay our warm and genuine tribute to Her Excellency, your gracious consort, to whom India owes so much. She has been the greatest friend during these eventful years to the suffering humanity in India. Every distress or calamity was a call to her to which she never failed. Her charity, sympathy, sincerity, and goodwill have made her an honoured name in India. Her great work shall endure, and the devoted prayers and blessings of many afflicted Indians, who shall benefit from the institutions founded by her, shall follow her.

31. And now Sir we bid you both farewell. You will carry with you the heartiest good wishes and sincerest friendship of many of us who have had the honour of enjoying your kindness.

32. Your Excellency has been pleased to refer to the great soldier and distinguished administrator who is now about to succeed you as Viceroy. We honour him as the proud hero of one of the turning points in the history of this war. We admire the rare combination of the soldier and the statesman, which he typifies in his personality. We shall welcome him as a friend but we welcome his appointment in particular as an indication that England does not wish to let down those who have stood by her in the crisis.

**His Excellency the Crown Representative:** Your Highnesses: I am very much obliged for the reply to my address to this Chamber which has just fallen from His Highness the Chancellor and he may rest assured that the various substantial points which he raised in his speech will receive appropriate attention. On my part I desire once again to thank all Your Highnesses for the support which you have given to me in this chair year after year. I desire to tell you how grateful I am for the great personal kindness which you have shown to myself. I should like to make public acknowledgment of my high appreciation of the co-operation and assistance which at all times H. H. the Chancellor has been ready to give me whatever the business in hand. (Cheers.)

I agree with him that the relations and understanding which have existed between himself as Chancellor and myself as Crown Representative have a very great value from the public point of view and that once again the virtue of private friendship in its bearing upon public affairs has been amply exemplified. I should like to tell His Highness and the Chamber how truly grateful I am and how touched I am by the kind words which he used about my wife's work in India and for the very evident agreement with those words shown by all Your Highnesses. In bidding Your Highnesses farewell for the last time may I wish you and your peoples all happiness, success and prosperity in times to come. (Cheers.)

I now move that the Chamber be adjourned *sine die*.

*Resolutions passed by the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal), during the session held on the 14th and 15th October 1943.*

**Agendum No. 1.**

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its profound sense of grief at the demise of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent and requests His Excellency the President to be so kind as to convey to Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, its deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement.”

**Agendum No. 2.**

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of His late Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow and deep sense of loss sustained by the entire Order of Princes at the sad demise of His late Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, one of the founders and the first Chancellor of this Chamber, who held the exalted office of Chancellor for five consecutive years and was General Secretary to the Conference of Princes for five years preceding the inauguration of the Chamber and Pro-Chancellor at the time of his demise, and offers its sincerest condolences to the bereaved family.”

**Agendum No. 3.**

*Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar, the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Raja of Jhabua and the late Rajas of Khilchipur and Kurundwad (Junior).*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow at the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Cochin, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar, the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Raja of Jhabua and of the late Rajas of Khilchipur and Kurundwad (Junior) together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families.”

**Agendum No. 4.**

*Resolution of welcome by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Maharaja of Bikaner, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Raja of Jhabua, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar, the Rana of Barwani, the Maharaja of Chhatarpur, the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra and the Raja of Khilchipur and the Thakor Saheb of Wadhwan.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Ajaigarh, the Maharaja of Bikaner, the Maharaja of Charkhari, the Raja of Jhabua, the Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar and to the Raja of Khilchipur, on their accession to the Gaddi, and to Their Highnesses the Rana of Barwani, the Maharaja of Chhatarpur and the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra and to the Thakor Saheb of Wadhwan on their investiture with ruling powers and wishes them a long and prosperous life.”

**Agendum No. 5.**

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar welcoming the additional members recently admitted to the Chamber of Princes.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes extends a cordial welcome to the Rulers recently admitted as Members of the Chamber in their own

right and confidently hopes that by continuing to take an active interest in the affairs of this Chamber and the ordered progress of their respective States, these members will prove a source of added strength to the Chamber of Princes."

#### **Agendum No. 6.**

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the latest position regarding the war situation.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its expression of heartiest gratification at the recent important victories of the Imperial and Allied Forces in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Russia and other theatres of war and is proud to learn that the Indian troops have played a magnificent part in these achievements. The Chamber requests His Excellency the Crown Representative to convey to His Imperial Majesty and his Government, including in particular the courageous and inspiring Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the sincerest congratulations of the Princes of India on these glorious victories, and reiterates the firm determination of the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India to continue to render every possible assistance towards the achievement of final victory and for the defence of their Motherland and the vindication of high principles of justice and sanctity of treaties.”

#### **Agendum No. 7.**

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala relating to the work of His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar as representative of States on the Imperial War Cabinet.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records a hearty vote of thanks and tenders warm congratulations to His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the valuable services rendered by him as representative of the States on the Imperial War Cabinet.”

#### **Agendum No. 8.**

*Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar regarding procedure to be adopted for the announcement and ratification of the elections of the Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor in case no session of the Chamber of Princes is held in March 1944.*

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes recommends that in the event of its Session not being held in March, 1944, the voting papers for the next elections of the Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor be opened and the results of the elections declared for formal ratification at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Princes instead of at the Chamber Session as prescribed in Appendix A, to the First Regulations of the Constitution of the Chamber.”

